Gaiety Bugleweed

Ajuga reptans 'Gaiety'



Gaiety Bugleweed flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 4 inches

Flower Height: 6 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 4a

Other Names: Carpet Bugle

Description:

A vigorous, low growing and spreading selection that features oval, bronze-purple foliage; lilac-purple flower spikes appear in the spring and into the early summer; heat tolerant and low maintenance; deadhead spent flowers

Ornamental Features

Gaiety Bugleweed's attractive small glossy oval leaves emerge dark green in spring, turning deep purple in color with hints of coppery-bronze the rest of the year on a plant with a spreading habit of growth. It features subtle spikes of lilac purple flowers rising above the foliage from mid spring to early summer.



Gaiety Bugleweed
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Gaiety Bugleweed is a dense herbaceous evergreen perennial with a ground-hugging habit of growth. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should not require much pruning, except when necessary, such as to remove dieback. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spreading

Gaiety Bugleweed is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting
- Hanging Baskets

Planting & Growing

Gaiety Bugleweed will grow to be only 4 inches tall at maturity extending to 6 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 18 inches. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an evegreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

This plant performs well in both full sun and full shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider covering it with a thick layer of mulch in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Gaiety Bugleweed is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. Because of its spreading habit of growth, it is ideally suited for use as a 'spiller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the edges where it can spill gracefully over the pot. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.