Whitley's Speedwell

Veronica whitleyi



Whitley's Speedwell flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 2 inches

Flower Height: 4 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Spacing: 15 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 3

Other Names: Creeping Speedwell, Harebell Speedwell

Description:

Tiny violet-blue spikes of flowers adorn low carpet-like mats of green foliage on this resilient plant, which can take some light foot traffic; a superior groundcover selection, ideal in rock and alpine gardens



Whitley's Speedwell in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Whitley's Speedwell has masses of beautiful spikes of violet flowers with blue overtones rising above the foliage from late spring to mid summer, which are most effective when planted in groupings. Its pointy leaves remain light green in colour throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Whitley's Speedwell is a dense herbaceous perennial with a ground-hugging habit of growth. It brings an extremely fine and delicate texture to the garden composition and should be used to full effect.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. 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. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Whitley's Speedwell is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Whitley's Speedwell will grow to be only 2 inches tall at maturity extending to 4 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 18 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 15 inches apart. 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 8 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division.

Whitley's Speedwell is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. 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. Be aware that in our climate, most plants cannot be expected to survive the winter if left in containers outdoors, and this plant is no exception. Contact our experts for more information on how to protect it over the winter months.