Variegated Bluebeard

Caryopteris divaricata 'Variegata'



Variegated Bluebeard foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 5b

Other Names: Blue Spirea, Blue Mist Shrub

Description:

Lovely compact shrub with purple-blue flowers held over striking dark green and white variegated leaves; a true butterfly magnet for the garden

Ornamental Features

Variegated Bluebeard features dainty cymes of violet flowers with blue overtones along the branches from late summer to mid fall. The flowers are excellent for cutting. It has attractive white-variegated forest green foliage. The pointy leaves are highly ornamental but do not develop any appreciable fall color.



Variegated Bluebeard
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Variegated Bluebeard is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting birds and 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.

Variegated Bluebeard is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Variegated Bluebeard will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 years.

This shrub should only be grown in full sunlight. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Variegated Bluebeard makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.