

# *How to Care for a* CATLIN'S GIANT AJUGA Plant

## Ajuga reptans 'Catlins Giant

### **SELECT SITE:**

Light Requirements: Full Sun (more than 6+ hrs/day) to Part Shade (4-6 hrs/day). Best foliage color usually occurs in part-sun locations, a site that received about 3-4 hours of sunlight per day. Does very well in shady areas where grass will not grow; can spread aggressively.

This plant will grow larger; space 15-18 in. away from other plants and/or structures. For a mass planting, space 6-9 in. apart for quick cover.

Grows in average, medium moisture, well drained soils; prefers moist, humusy soils with good drainage yet will tolerate moderately dry ones. Provide good air circulation in hot & humid climates and divide plants if they become overcrowded. Avoid planting in wet, heavy soils. Avoid planting near perennial beds or lawns, where its spreading nature could pose removal problems.

Garden Uses: Grown primarily for use as a ground cover. Will fill in large, shady areas where lawns are difficult to establish. Can plant on banks or slopes, under trees or around shrubs. Can be planted over spring bulbs. Good for small spaces, containers & rock gardens. Avoid planting adjacent to lawn as it can spread into the grassy area.

Ideal USDA Plant Hardiness Zones: 4,5,6,7,8

### **PLANT PREP:**

Open box upon arrival, remove packing materials to let the plant "breathe". Remove plastic bag, tape, and newspaper. Water well. There are drainage holes in the bottom of the pot so do this outside where the extra water will drain away.

Dig saucer shaped hole. The depth is determined by measuring the height of the roots from root flare to bottom. The width is 2-3 times the root ball diameter. Using these calculations, the ideal hole for the new bush will be approximately 16" tall by 12-15" wide.

Place plant in hole and adjust for aesthetics. Hold in place while adding more soil, until the hole is completely filled. Push soil down until firm. Do not plant the shrub deeper than it has already been growing. Water well immediately after planting. Mulch evenly to a depth of 2-3 inches being sure to stay at least 4" away from its stems.

### **FUTURE MAINTENANCE:**

If desired, fertilize in spring when new growth begins. Apply 2 tbsp. of an all-purpose slow release fertilizer upon the ground in a band around the plant at least 6" away from its stem.

Plants may be cut back to the ground after flowering, if desired, to rejuvenate the foliage. Large plants can be mowed on a high mower setting to remove spent flower spikes and to tidy the appearance of the planting.