Pilea

Pilea cadierei

Height: 12 inches

Spread: 10 inches

Spacing: 8 inches

Sunlight: ●

Hardiness Zone: 10

Other Names: Watermelon Plant

Description:

Rich, deep green oval leaves that look like they have been splashed with aluminum paint, hence the name; pinch stem tips to keep plant compact; a great annual base or edging plant; requiring only bright indirect light, this one is a great houseplant

Ornamental Features

Pilea's attractive serrated oval leaves remain dark green in color with showy silver variegation throughout the year on a plant with a mounded habit of growth.

Landscape Attributes

Pilea is a dense herbaceous evergreen perennial with a mounded form. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Pilea is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting
- Hanging Baskets



Pilea foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Pilea
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Planting & Growing

Pilea will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 10 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 8 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 5 years. As an evegreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

This plant should only be grown in a well-shaded location. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by cuttings.

Pilea is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a canvas of foliage against which the thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.