



Oregon Trail Foamflower

Tiareella 'Oregon Trail'

Plant Height: 4 inches

Flower Height: 6 inches

Spread: 3 feet

Spacing: 24 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 4a

Description:

Vigorous and beautiful, the deep green leaves are deeply lobed and marked dark burgundy-brown filling up the center of the leaf; only a few white flowers appear in spring on short stems; great shaded groundcover under trees and along borders



Oregon Trail Foamflower flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Oregon Trail Foamflower's attractive lobed leaves emerge chartreuse in spring, turning dark green in color with pointy burgundy spines the rest of the year on a plant with a spreading habit of growth. It has masses of beautiful spikes of lightly-scented white bell-shaped flowers rising above the foliage in mid spring, which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. The dark red stems can be quite attractive.

Landscape Attributes

Oregon Trail Foamflower is an 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 is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Oregon Trail Foamflower is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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



Planting & Growing

Oregon Trail Foamflower will grow to be only 4 inches tall at maturity extending to 6 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 3 feet. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 24 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an evergreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

This plant does best in partial shade to shade. It requires an evenly moist well-drained soil for optimal growth. It is particular about its soil conditions, with a strong preference for rich, acidic soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider covering it with a thick layer of mulch in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid. 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.

Oregon Trail Foamflower 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.