BEDFORD FIELDS
GARDEN · HOME · GIFTS

Mayapple

Podophyllum peltatum



Mayapple
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 18 inches

Spread: 12 inches

Spacing: 10 inches

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 3a

Description:

A wonderful clumping native variety with large green leaves that are deeply lobed; white flowers dangle under leaves in mid-spring followed by golden fruit in summer; fruit is edible but leaves and roots are poisonous; excellent for naturalizing



Mayapple
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Mayapple's attractive lobed palmate leaves remain green in color throughout the season on a plant with an upright spreading habit of growth. It features bold white bell-shaped flowers dangling from the stems in early spring. The fruits are showy gold pomes displayed in mid summer.

Landscape Attributes

Mayapple is an herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading 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. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Mayapple is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Mayapple will grow to be about 16 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 12 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 10 inches apart. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 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 partial shade to shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is native to parts of North America, and parts of it are known to be toxic to humans and animals, so care should be exercised in planting it around children and pets. It can be propagated by cuttings.

Mayapple is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers and foliage against which the larger 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.