



Woolly Lamb's Ear (*Stachys byzantina*)

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Woolly lamb's ear is a species of flowering plants in the mint family, native to Turkey, Armenia and Iran. The plant is an herbaceous perennial, found commonly in children's gardens because the thick felt-like leaves are fun to touch. The name was chosen due to the leaf's curved shape and soft, white, fur-like hair coating. Flowering spikes are 10 to 15 inches tall, with silvery-white leaves, and tiny pinkish-lavender flowers crowded together over the length of the spike. Wonderful plant for edging beds, walks or rock gardens. Lamb's ear is popular with bees, in particular the Wool Carder Bee which collects the fuzz off the leaves to use for making nests in decayed wood.

Type	Herbaceous perennial
Hardiness Zone	3 - 8
Sun	Full sun
Bloom Time	July - August
Height	12" to 18"
Spread	12" to 24"
Tolerance	Drought tolerant
Attracts	Butterflies, bees and hummingbirds
Additional Features	Deer and rabbit resistant, rarely damaged

Soil and Site Recommendations

- Drainage: well drained
- Soil pH: 6.0 - 6.5, slightly acidic
- Type: poor, evenly moist to dry or rocky soil

Planting Recommendations

- Type: potted nursery seedling or clump of roots with growth points
- When to plant: spring
- Depth of planting: maintain same soil level as potted plant
- Mulching: mulch to keep underside of leaves dry
- Spacing: 12" to 18"
- Spread: aggressive, creeping stems which root as they move through the ground
- Division/transplant tips: transplant creeping roots, every two to three years



Maintenance

- Watering: avoid excessive and overhead watering, causes leaves to rot or develop fungal leaf spot
- Fertilization: not necessary
- Pinching/deadheading: cut flowering spikes off to encourage vigorous foliage, remove dead leaves
- Annual maintenance: remove diseased foliage and deadened centers to allow root spread

Common Problems

Disease: fungal diseases, rot and leaf spots

Insects: nothing notable

Resources

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org>

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu>

[Perennials for Minnesota and Wisconsin \(Don Engebretson and Don Williamson\)](#)

Questions or problems: “What’s wrong with my plant” for information on garden pests and diseases:

<http://apps.extension.umn.edu/garden/diagnose/plant/>

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