

Botanical Name: Acanthus mollis

Common Name: Bear's breech

Type of Plant: dicot; perennial Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape loose, clumping form -- large leaves arise from a basal rhizome, arch outward to form a loose rounded shape

Height 2-4' Spread 6-8' Growth Rate rapid

Environment:

Exposure outdoors partial sun/shade, tolerates full sun along coast

Soil prefers moist loam, tolerates most

Hardiness hardy (zones 4-24); dies back to ground in cold areas

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate (lobed) to pinnatifid, oblong -- arising from rhizome; 2-4' long, deep green, toothed dark green and shiny

Flowers whitish/pink, bilaterally symmetrical, funnel shaped, 1-1 1/2" long on erect 2' spikes -- April through July

Fruit oval capsule 1" long

Propagation: seed, division of clump

Usage: filler or loose border for dramatic foliage -- shaded areas, woodsy, tropical landscapes

Landscape Care:

Watering prefers regular, tolerates some drought; may become drought-deciduous if allowed to dry out completely

Fertilizing balanced in spring

Pruning divide clumps to keep within bounds -- remove old leaves

Pests/Diseases snails/slugs

Special Conditions

Origin: Southern Europe Family: Acanthaceae