

Botanical Name: Portulacaria afra 'Variegata'

Common Name: Variegated purslane tree

Type of Plant: dicot: shrub Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape low, spreading, dense and irregular succulent with small, variegated succulent leaves on fleshy, burgundy-colored stems; much smaller and more compact than the species

Height to 2' Spread to 6' Growth Rate moderate

Environment:

Exposure outdoors half shade to full sun

Soil tolerates any soil

Hardiness some frost (zones 16,17,22-24)

Morphology:

Leaves opposite, sessile obovate, variegated with creamy white, to 3/8" across, succulent and rounded attached to wine-red stems

Flowers tiny pink flowers in terminal clusters seldom seen in California

Fruit insignificant capsule

Propagation: stem cuttings (allow to dry for a day before planting)

Usage: good groundcover or facer plant in succulent gardens; an excellent container plant for interesting foliage and form

Landscape Care:

Watering prefers to be kept on the dry side

Fertilizing none

Pruning control spread, pinch back to induce bushiness

Pests/Diseases none

Special Conditions

Origin: So. Africa Family: Portulacaceae