

Botanical Name: Tradescantia pallida 'Purpurea' (Setcreasea pallida 'Purple Heart')

Common Name: Purple heart

Type of Plant: monocot: perennial      Family Commelinaceae

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape creeping, tumbling plant with trailing stems that root readily at their nodes; pink flowers form at the nodes are attractive but not showy

Height to 1 ft.      Spread to 2 ft.      Growth Rate moderate

Environment:

Exposure in/outdoors full sun to partial shade; bright light indoors

Soil prefers a well amended soil, takes most any soil conditions

Hardiness some frost (Zones 12-24) or anywhere indoors

Morphology:

Leaves fleshy lanceolate leaves to 4" long, dark purple, especially on undersides; stems fleshy to 1/4" thick have nodes with pre-formed roots

Flowers 3-petaled flowers to 1" across, in pink or purple; appear on short stems and are short-lived; dead-head after blooming

Fruit small capsule

Propagation: easily propagated from cuttings

Usage: can be used as a trailing houseplant or as a groundcover in warm areas; can be mixed with tropical or even desert-theme landscapes as a groundcover

Landscape Care:

Watering takes moderate watering during active growth; will look scraggly in winter but will recover quickly when weather warms

Fertilizing balanced, slow-release each spring

Pruning prune to control spread and encourage bushiness; can be sheared

Pests/Diseases snails and caterpillars

Other

Origin: Mexico