



Alpine Violet

Cyclamen coum

Primrose Family (Primulaceae)

Zones: 5-8

Part Sun

Moderate Water

Location: Floral Walk

Cyclamen coum is a wonderful plant to have in your garden when the winter months start coming to a close. In February these winter hardy plants start pushing out their magenta, pink, or white blooms, putting on an impressive I-can't-wait-for-spring show! Amidst the Snowdrops (*Galanthus*), the *Cyclamen coum* that we have in our garden gives us one of our first tastes of what's to come for the new season. They seem to wake us up out of our winter lull, brighten our days, and fuel our anticipation for more flowers that will follow.

These plants grow from a small brown tuber that is planted in the fall along with your other spring blooming bulbs, tubers, and corms. The tuber should not be buried completely, and the area needs to be dry shade. They are a perennial, and have summer dormancy. During this dormancy, these plants should be kept mostly dry and, in fact, require no supplemental water.

Cyclamen coum is found natively in the Caucasus and in the eastern Mediterranean. It grows in mountainous and coastal regions, around the bases of trees, and in shady woodlands.

Along with the blushing colors of the flowers, the leaves are very attractive as well. They grow to heart-shaped and are either shiny green or silver, or shiny green with a silver blotch in the middle of the leaf. The leaves curl up and disappear in the summer, leaving only the flower stem with seeds.

Ants will usually harvest the seeds and eat away their tender covering, leaving the seeds to germinate and create an even more stunning display of more *Cyclamen*.