



Bugle Weed

Ajuga reptans

Mint Family (Lamiaceae)

Zones: 3-9

Part Sun

Moderate Water

Location: Courtyard, Floral Walk, Four Seasons Garden,
Herb Garden, Medicinal Garden, Orangerie
Perennial Gardens, Visitor Center, Water Pavilion

Ajuga reptans is a fast-growing herbaceous groundcover that pairs well with other perennials in your garden. It spreads by stolons and forms a mat-like cover. Since it is a member of the Mint family, its stems are square and its leaves whorled. This semi-evergreen leaves are dark green with burgundy; it contrasts other plants that are a lighter shade of green nicely.

Ajuga's common name is Bugleweed, or Carpetweed as it is sometimes referred. It grows well in shade to partial shade, but the best leaf color happens in the sun. The leaves will scorch, however, if exposed to full afternoon sun.

This versatile plant prefers rich, moist soil, but will thrive in a variety of soil types. It grows to a height of 2 to 4 inches, but will reach 10 inches when in bloom. It blooms in mid-Spring, and if dead-headed, blooming can last for the remainder of the growing season. Depending upon the cultivar, the bloom color can be white, pink, or purple. The blooms are an attractant to bees in May and June.

Since this plant grows as such a thick cover, it will usually out-compete any weeds that try to grow through. In order to prevent overcrowding and stave off fungal infections, it is necessary to divide the plants every 2 to 3 years.