

Echter's Nursery & Garden Center

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Contessa Purple Ivy Leaf Geranium



Contessa™ Purple Ivy Leaf Geranium *Pelargonium peltatum* 'Contessa Purple'

Height: 12 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Spacing: 15 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Group/Class: Contessa Series

Description:

A series that is known for great garden performance, with a wide range of colors; robust double blooms are non-stop all season; medium vigor is ideal for hanging baskets or large mixed containers

Ornamental Features

Contessa Purple Ivy Leaf Geranium features bold clusters of lightly-scented purple flowers with dark red overtones at the ends of the stems from late spring to early fall, which emerge from distinctive deep purple flower buds. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its serrated pointy palmate leaves remain green in color throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Contessa Purple Ivy Leaf Geranium is an herbaceous annual with a trailing habit of growth, eventually spilling over the edges of hanging baskets and containers. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep. Trim off the flower heads after they fade and die to encourage more blooms late into the season. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Contessa Purple Ivy Leaf Geranium is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting
- Hanging Baskets



*Contessa Purple Ivy Leaf Geranium
flowers*
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Planting & Growing

Contessa Purple Ivy Leaf Geranium will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 18 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 15 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. Although it's not a true annual, this fast-growing plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. It can be propagated by cuttings; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Contessa Purple Ivy Leaf Geranium is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. Because of its trailing habit of growth, it is ideally suited for use as a 'spiller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the edges where it can spill gracefully over the pot. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.