Sansevieria trifasciata ‘Hahnii’

Edward F. Gilman

Introduction

Bird’s Nest is a stiff, vase-like, herbaceous perennial that attains a height of about 6 inches. Its simple, elliptic leaves are arranged in a rosette. These attractive leaves are dark green with light green, irregular bands that run across the leaf’s width. The flowers of this plant are green and white and occur periodically throughout the year. Small berries follow the flowers, but these fruits are unnoticeable.

General Information

Scientific name: Sansevieria trifasciata ‘Hahnii’

Pronunciation: san-sev-VEER-ree-uh try-fash-shee-AY-tuh

Common name(s): Dwarf Snake Plant

Family: Agavaceae

Plant type: herbaceous; ground cover

USDA hardiness zones: 9B through 11 (Fig. 1)

Planting month for zone 9: year round

Planting month for zone 10 and 11: year round

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: suitable for growing indoors; ground cover; edging

Availability: generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

Description

Height: 0 to .5 feet

Spread: .5 to 1 feet

Plant habit: upright

Plant density: moderate

Growth rate: slow

Texture: coarse

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: basal rosette

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: entire

Leaf shape: linear

Leaf venation: parallel

Leaf type and persistence: evergreen

Leaf blade length: 12 to 18 inches; more than 36 inches

Leaf color: variegated

Fall color: no fall color change

Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: white; green

Flower characteristic: pleasant fragrance; flowers periodically throughout the year

Fruit

Fruit shape: oval

Fruit length: less than .5 inch

Fruit cover: fleshy

Fruit color: red

Fruit characteristic: persists on the plant

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: not applicable

Current year stem/twig color: not applicable

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Culture

**Current year stem/twig thickness:** not applicable

**Light requirement:** plant grows in part shade/part sun; plant grows in the shade

**Soil tolerances:** alkaline; clay; sand; acidic; loam

**Drought tolerance:** high

**Soil salt tolerances:** good

**Plant spacing:** 12 to 18 inches

Other

**Roots:** not applicable

**Winter interest:** no special winter interest

**Outstanding plant:** not particularly outstanding

**Invasive potential:** potentially invasive

**Pest resistance:** long-term health usually not affected by pests

Use and Management

Bird's Nest is occasionally used in the landscape as a ground cover, especially in dry, desert-like gardens. Their small size and drought tolerance makes them suited for a rock garden. It is also very attractive when used in containers placed indoors or outdoors.

This plant is not particular as to light level and is tolerant of most well-drained soils. It will endure periods of drought and tolerates moderate amounts of salt spray. Bird’s Nest should not be grown outdoors in the northern regions of Florida due to its cold tenderness. Overwatering this plant will cause it to develop root rot.

Sansevieria trifasciata ‘Hahnii’ is propagated by leaf cuttings and division.

Pests and Diseases

This plant has no insect or disease pests that are a major concern. Chewing insects may occasionally cause problems.