



Cooperative Extension Service  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

## ***Sansevieria trifasciata* 'Hahnii'**<sup>1</sup>

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### **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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Figure 1. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

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

**Culture**

**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.

