



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

*Hedera canariensis*¹

Edward F. Gilman²

Introduction

Algerian Ivy is an excellent choice for a groundcover in shady locations, its bold leaves quickly providing a dark green mat of foliage. The tenacious aerial roots will guide the plant up tree trunks, walls, or trellises and the vigorous growth must be contained by regular pruning along the edge of the landscape bed. It makes a wonderful, coarse-textured ground cover, giving a gentle uniformity to any landscape.

General Information

Scientific name: *Hedera canariensis*

Pronunciation: HED-dur-uh kuh-nair-ee-EN-sis

Common name(s): Algerian Ivy

Family: *Araliaceae*

Plant type: ground cover

USDA hardiness zones: 8B through 10 (Fig. 1)

Planting month for zone 8: year round

Planting month for zone 9: year round

Planting month for zone 10 and 11: year round

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: mass planting; container or above-ground planter; hanging basket; suitable for growing indoors; cut foliage/twigs

Availability: generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

Description

Height: depends upon supporting structure

Spread: depends upon supporting structure

Plant habit: prostrate (flat)

Plant density: dense

Growth rate: fast

Texture: medium

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: alternate

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: lobed

Leaf shape: cordate

Leaf venation: palmate

Leaf type and persistence: evergreen

Leaf blade length: 2 to 4 inches

Leaf color: variegated

Fall color: no fall color change

Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: white

Flower characteristic: fall flowering

Fruit

Fruit shape: round

Fruit length: less than .5 inch

Fruit cover: fleshy

Fruit color: unknown

Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: not applicable

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2. Edward F. Gilman, professor, Environmental Horticulture Department, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, 32611.

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Figure 1. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Current year stem/twig color: reddish
Current year stem/twig thickness: medium

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in the shade
Soil tolerances: clay; sand; acidic; loam
Drought tolerance: moderate
Soil salt tolerances: poor
Plant spacing: 18 to 24 inches

Other

Roots: not applicable
Winter interest: no special winter interest
Outstanding plant: not particularly outstanding
Invasive potential: not known to be invasive
Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests

Use and Management

Tolerant of full sun conditions, Algerian Ivy does best in some shade on moist but well-drained soils. More susceptible to cold damage than English Ivy, Algerian Ivy should be located in protected areas when grown in USDA hardiness zone 8b (north central Florida). Plant on 12-inch centers from rooted cuttings.

The cultivar 'Variegata' has leaves with cream-colored margins flecked with green, and grey-green or blue-green mid-sections; 'Canary Cream' has green leaves with cream-colored margins.

Propagation is by cuttings of young shoots only.

Problems include scale, sooty mold, and snails.

Pests and Diseases

No diseases are of major concern. Leaf spot can disfigure the foliage but it usually is not serious if the plants are growing in an area with good air circulation.

