

1. **Acanthus latifolius** (L8) (uh-can'-thus) (Acanthus mollis 'Latifolius')



Basic ID *flowers form (bract and color), architecture form*

Common name: bear's breeches

Family name: Acanthaceae

Zone: 8-10

Type: herbaceous perennial

Height and spread: High & Medium (120cm, 90cm)

Leaf & flower size: Large

Bloom time: May-August

Evergreen/deciduous: deciduous (?)

Flower & Fall color: *soft purple* / N/A

Leaf arrangement/Foliage: Very large, shiny-green deeply lobed leaves.

Flower/cone/fruit description(s): Each flower has four sepals and one spiny bract, and a tubular corolla with a three-lobed lower lip. *Stems* of acanthus flowers are formally handsome.

Winter ID: need kill the ground part (?)

Recommended plant index ****

Common: common landscape plant/elegant plant when healthy

Tough: *tough*

Disease: Slugs and snails

Pollinated: large insects (mainly bumblebees)

Invasive/poisonous: *aggressive* (rhizome)

Easy to be noticed: very easy

Maintenance: Low

Useful cultivars and selections in Vancouver: 'Latifolius'

Light: full sun in Vancouver, half sun in hot areas/survive deep shade

Water use: dry

Soil requirement: sandy, well-drained, PH > 7

Maintenance advice: 1. best to cut off the flower stems before seeds capsule ripen.

2. Larger flower need: reduce moisture, increase light and space

3. cut leaves at summer's end with good flower

Usages

Plant design combination: not good in combination (except similar aggressive plants)

Grow Scenario: like hot and dry weather; handsome / notable plants in spacious space; good with a architecture background or lawn edge

Suggested plant area: Mowing of lawn ; In a bed by concrete or deep root barrier.

Texture: strongly architectural plant

Form: clump forming

Special usages in landscape: eco-flower (bees) / *culture* (Corinthian style of column) / deer resistant