

## ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE

Environmental Horticulture #EH385



### GERMANDER

#### PRODUCTION AND CONSUMER CARE

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#### INTRODUCTION

- Common name: Germander
- Scientific name: *Teucrium chamaedrys*
- Name derives from the Greek *chamai*, meaning 'ground', and *drus*, meaning 'oak'
- Native to Europe, including Greece, and Syria
- Creeping evergreen perennial 6-18 inches in height
- Opposite, dark green, shiny leaves resemble oak leaves

- Purple flowers appear in June and July
- Hardy in zones 5-10
- Often used in borders or edging
- A favorite in knot gardens
- Used in the treatment of gout

#### GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Grows well in well-drained media with a pH of approximately 6.3
- Grows in full sun or partial shade
- Mulch in the fall for winter protection

## PROPAGATION

- Can be grown from seed, but requires up to 30 days to germinate
- Can be propagated by cuttings in the spring or division in the fall
- Media benefits from an addition of organic matter before planting
- If using as a hedge, space plants six inches apart
- If the plant is intended to flower, space plants one foot apart

## DISORDERS

- Powdery mildew (*Erysiphe cichoracaerum*)
  - White fuzzy coating on upper leaves
  - Foliage will wilt, brown, and drop
  - Reduce humidity and remove infected foliage
- Fungal leaf spot (*Phoma exigua*)
  - Bacterial disease that appears as spots or patches on leaves
  - Avoid wetting the foliage
  - Remove infected leaves
- Rust (*Puccinia menthe*)
  - Red, orange, or black pustules appear on stems and leaves
  - Remove and burn infected foliage
- Spider mites
  - Heavy infestations destroy leaves
  - Spray with water or an insecticidal soap

## CONSUMER CARE

- Takes well to shearing

- Prune often, not allowing flowers to form, if using as a hedge
- Restrict pruning if growing for flowers

## CULTIVARS AND SPECIES

- *Teucrium chamaedrys*
  - 'Nanum': Pink flowers; can be used as ground cover
- *Teucrium x lucidrys* (hedge germander): Hardy shrub with pink flowers; must be grown from cuttings
- *Teucrium fruticans* (silver germander)
- *Teucrium canadense* (Canada germander): Grows to 3 feet; low drought tolerance
- *Teucrium occidentale* (Western germander)

## References

- <http://www.superbherbs.net/Germander.htm>
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teucrium\\_chamaedrys](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teucrium_chamaedrys)
- <http://www.botanical.com/botanical/mg/mh/g/gerwall1.html>
- <http://www.mountainvalleygrowers.com/teuchamaedrys.htm>
- <http://www.seedsofknowledge.com/germander.html>

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