

## AJUGA

# PRODUCTION AND CONSUMER CARE

### INTRODUCTION

- Common name: Bugleweed
- Scientific name: *Ajuga* sp.
- Native to Europe, Asia, and Africa
- Very common perennial ground cover
- Grows 6-9" in height when in full bloom
- Foliage color can be purple, green, or bronze
- Evergreen to semi-evergreen, depending on the variety
- Flowers are typically bluish-purple, though some varieties may display different colors
- Flowers bloom from early spring to mid-summer
- Hardy in zones 3-9

### GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Can be grown in any type of light, although it prefers light shade
- Requires well-drained soil; does not perform well in heavy clays
- Relatively drought tolerant
- Tolerates soil pH between 3.7 and 6.5

### PROPAGATION

- Can be propagated by division in fall or spring

- Set new plants 12-15" apart
- Do not cover the crown with soil or the plant will rot and die
- Runners are more easily removed from the mother plant when they are young

### DISORDERS

- Gray mold (*Botrytis*)
  - Leaves shrivel up and flowers abort
  - Practice good sanitation; promptly remove spent flower blooms
- Crown rot (*Phytophthora* sp. and *Rhizoctonia* sp.)
  - Affects large, crowded groupings of plants
  - Leaves turn brown and wilt; plant eventually dies
  - Reduce crowding among plants
  - Remove affected plants
- Southern blight (*Sclerotium rolfsii*)
  - Lower leaves yellow and wilt
  - White, thread-like material grows up stems of plants
  - Remove affected plants
  - Practice good sanitation to prevent disease spread

### CONSUMER CARE

- Spreads easily and can become invasive

- Should be contained by edging with a shovel every spring and summer
- Removing young runners periodically will also keep the plant contained
- Can be planted on slopes for erosion control
- Multi-colored foliage plants are hardy only to zone 5

## CULTIVARS AND SPECIES

- *Ajuga reptans*
  - 'Black Scallop': dark purple leaves with scalloped edges
  - 'Burgundy Glow': tricolor foliage, blue flowers
- *Ajuga x tenorii*
  - 'Chocolate Chip': dwarf cultivar, small dark brown leaves and dark blue flowers

## References

<http://www.thegardenhelper.com/ajuga.html>  
<http://www.gardening-tips-perennials.com/ajuga.html>  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bugle\\_\(plant\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bugle_(plant))

## Reviewed by:

Dr. Yin-Tung Wang  
 Research and Development  
 Matsui Nursery  
 Salinas, CA

Dr. Mike Orzolek  
 Professor of Horticulture  
 Penn State University

Dr. Frank Flora  
 National Program Leader  
 Nutrition, Food Safety, and Quality  
 USDA-ARS

*Mention of trade names does not constitute an endorsement by the Maryland Cooperative Extension, University of Maryland, College Park, or University of Maryland, Eastern Shore.*

## AJUGA PRODUCTION AND CONSUMER CARE

by  
 Thomas M. Blessington, David L. Clement, and Kevin G. Williams  
 Central Maryland Research and Education Center  
 University of Maryland

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, University of Maryland, College Park, and local governments. Cheng-i Wei, Director of Maryland Cooperative Extension, University of Maryland.

The University of Maryland is equal opportunity. The University's policies, programs, and activities are in conformance with pertinent Federal and State laws and regulations on nondiscrimination regarding race, color, religion, age, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, marital or parental status, or disability. Inquiries regarding compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Educational Amendments; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990; or related legal requirements should be directed to the Director of Human Resources Management, Office of the Dean, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Symons Hall, College Park, MD 20742.