Hedera canariensis
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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
**Hedera canariensis -- Algerian Ivy**

**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.

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