



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

*Veronica spp.*¹

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Introduction

Veronicas grow from 2 to 18 inches tall, in full sun or light shade in any good garden soil (Fig. 1). The plant is susceptible to drought and some types of veronica are serious lawn weeds.

General Information

Scientific name: *Veronica spp.*

Pronunciation: ver-RAWN-nick-kuh species

Common name(s): Woolly Speedwell, Speedwell

Family: *Scrophulariaceae*

Plant type: annual; perennial; herbaceous

USDA hardiness zones: 4 through 9A (Fig. 2)

Planting month for zone 7: Jun; Jul

Planting month for zone 8: May; Jun

Planting month for zone 9: Mar; Apr

Planting month for zone 10 and 11: not recommended

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: cut flowers; border; mass planting; ground cover; edging

Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant



Figure 1. Woolly Speedwell.

Description

Height: 1 to 2 feet

Spread: .5 to 1.5 feet

Plant habit: upright

Plant density: moderate

Growth rate: moderate

Texture: medium

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: opposite/subopposite

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: dentate; serrate

Leaf shape: obovate; oblong; ovate

Leaf venation: pinnate

Leaf type and persistence: semi-evergreen

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Leaf blade length: 2 to 4 inches
Leaf color: green
Fall color: no fall color change
Fall characteristic: not applicable

Flower

Flower color: purple; blue; lavender
Flower characteristic: spring flowering; summer flowering; fall flowering

Fruit

Fruit shape: unknown
Fruit length: unknown
Fruit cover: unknown
Fruit color: unknown
Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: typically multi-trunked or clumping stems
Current year stem/twig color: green
Current year stem/twig thickness: medium

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in part shade/part sun
Soil tolerances: acidic; loam; clay; sand
Drought tolerance: moderate
Soil salt tolerances: unknown
Plant spacing: 12 to 18 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: no serious pests are normally seen on the plant

Use and Management

Division may be done in autumn or spring. Seeds germinate in 15 to 20 days at 70-degrees F. Softwood cuttings may be taken in spring. Seed can be planted outdoors within two months of frost.

Pests and Diseases

Downy mildew causes pale spots on the upper sides of leaves. Corresponding regions on the undersides of the leaves are covered with grayish mildew.

Leaf spot causes numerous small circular spots which vary in color from violet to brown. The spots are found on the upper leaf surface. On the undersides the spots are yellowish brown. As the spots run together the leaves look scorched, ragged and shotholed. The last stage of the disease is defoliation. Destroy all fallen and spotted leaves. The disease is caused by *Septoria veronicae* .

Powdery mildew causes a white powdery growth on the leaves.