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## Bear's Breeches

*Acanthus mollis*

Plant Height: 3 feet

Flower Height: 5 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: 

Hardiness Zone: 6

### Description:

Large, deep green jagged leaves have great texture and interest; beautiful spikes of pink/white flowers tower over the foliage; long leaves are deeply cut; a vigorous grower with a stunning presentation

### Ornamental Features

Bear's Breeches features showy spikes of shell pink hooded flowers with white overtones rising above the foliage in late summer. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive large deeply cut lobed leaves remain dark green in color throughout the year.

### Landscape Attributes

Bear's Breeches is an open herbaceous evergreen perennial with a rigidly upright and towering form. Its wonderfully bold, coarse texture can be very effective in a balanced garden composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. It is a good choice for attracting bees to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spiny

Bear's Breeches is recommended for the following landscape applications;



*Bear's Breeches flowers*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



*Bear's Breeches in bloom*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



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- Accent
- Shade
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

### Planting & Growing

Bear's Breeches will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity extending to 5 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 4 feet. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 years. As an evergreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

This plant should be grown in a location with partial shade. Keep it away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in both summer and winter to conserve soil moisture and protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division.

Bear's Breeches is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden. Be aware that in our climate, this plant may be too tender to survive the winter if left outdoors in a container. Contact our experts for more information on how to protect it over the winter months.



*Bear's Breeches flowers*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder