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***Viola hederacea***

Need a sea of green to quickly cover shade or semi -sun areas? You can’t go wrong with Viola hederacea .This energetic little ground cover comes from Australia and is commonly known as the Australian Violet.

It is a quick growing; flat spreading, evergreen, herbaceous ground cover that can form an extensive mat. One little plant can, without difficulty, spread up to a square meter in diameter. Viola hederacea reaches approximately 15cm in height. It has soft green, round leaves.

The Australian Violet grows in shade or partial shade in moist, well drained compost enriched soil. Don’t be too anxious if your soil isn’t ideal as they will adapt effortlessly to most garden soils. Keep the ground around it damp in hot summer months and if the plant is in more sun then shade. This will ensure the plant is happy and spreads quickly.

Viola hederacea will flower most of the year. The white and purple violet shaped flowers appear on stems above the foliage. The flowers are edible and look great when tossed into summer salads.

This is an easy to care for ground cover requiring very little maintenance. Divide clumps in autumn or spring.

Grow Viola hederacea as a ground cover in the shade under shrubs and trees. Plant it in hanging baskets and containers where it can cascade or they work beautifully when planted between stepping stones.