

**Soleirolia soleirolli**

*Peace in the home*

Soleirolia soleirolli is also referred to as Helxine soleirolii and is commonly known as ‘Peace in the home’ or ‘Babies tears’. It is a fast growing mat forming perennial that produces dense lush, rich green leaves. It is evergreen and a vigorous grower.

Part of Soleirolia soleirolli best attributes is that it can be used either in the garden or as a house plant. Its dainty little leaves cover the ground like a carpet in shade or semi shade areas and as a house plant it greens up terrariums or does well in individual pots on a windowsill.

In a garden environment Soleirolia soleirolli grow wells in shady areas with marginal light, it is best to avoid direct light. They are generally pest resistant and individual plants will cover an area of about half a metre. Plant in a well drained soil and keep evenly moist but not soggy in the summer months and reduce watering in the winter months. A regular feeding program with ‘Atlantic All Purpose’ or ‘Atlantic Bio Ocean’ will ensure fast lush growth. It is best to avoid planting this plant in frost prone areas as they may become deciduous. Creamy white insignificant and petal less flowers are produced in late spring.

Soleirolia soleirolli also makes an excellent house plant option. When used indoors they require little maintenance and will beautifully cascade over the edges of containers. It will grow indoors in low light areas but prefers bright indirect light. Ensure the soil is kept uniformly moist and that the container has good drainage holes, sodden plants will quickly rot. Regular feeding with ‘Atlantic All Purpose’ or ‘Atlantic Bio Ocean’ will ensure quick spread and leafy growth. Trimming with scissors is not absolutely necessary but does keep plants in containers looking neat and tidy.

Soleirolia soleirolli is ideal for hanging baskets and mixed containers where the foliage can trail over the sides. It is very decorative when planted in quirky containers and then used inside on a windowsill. In the garden, plant them in high light areas under trees or in shaded courtyard pots. Although this seems a fragile plant with a small delicate structure it is surprisingly robust, easy to grow and charming.