

Coral Bells 'Dale's Strain' (*Heuchera americana*)

1--2" handsome mounds of dense variegated foliage

CT native, found in dry woods, rocky slopes, crevices

Excellent 4" gently lobed leaves, almost round. The leaves have a soft olive patina with silvery-blue marbling, together with a network of spruce green and rosy red veins. Young leaves are chartreuse.

20" leafless wands of tiny pinkish-white bell-flowers held above foliage, late May to late June. After flowering, the mounded habit may become more open. If plants are grown as ground covers for foliage textures, removal of flower stalks might be considered. If grown for flowers, deadhead to extend flowering season.

Foliage becomes a bright golden-orange in fall.

Part shade to shade. Less than 4 hours sun, and best if that sun is in the morning.

Moist to dry. Prefers moist, loamy, and organically and humus-rich soil. The fibrous roots require well-drained soil.

Tolerates dry shade, under trees.

Heat and humidity tolerant.

Prefers moist loamy and organically and humus-rich well-dained soil.

Coral Bells are susceptible to winter root heaving. Winter mulch helps prevent this, as does mounding the soil slightly when planting.

Dividing every 3-4 years in the spring. helps to rejuvenate the plant and remove declining growth.

Remove old leaves in late winter to feature the lovely new foliage in spring.

Except for these measure, this plant is low-maintenance.

Makes an excellent ground cover. Use in borders, woodlands and rock gardens, for edging, in groupings and masses.

Extremely long-lasting in flower arrangement. Cut with long stem, and place in water immediately. If you change water weekly, leaves can live up to two years in a vase.

Attracts bees, butterflies, hummingbirds. Unpalatable to deer and other herbivores.



Photos 1, 3: Mark Dwyer, Director of Horticulture, Rotary Botanical Gardens, rotarybotanicalgardens.org

Photo 2: Mount Cuba Center; mtcubacenter.org

Photos 4, 5, 6: North Creek Nurseries; northcreeknurseries.com