

Cast Iron Plant

Aspidistra elatior

Cast iron plant is a tough perennial that's great for shady spots. Common names often say a lot about a plant, and cast iron plant is no exception. This tough-as-nails plant makes a reliable accent plant or groundcover in any shady corner of the landscape. Cast iron plant can be grown outdoors in all regions of Florida and does equally well in filtered and deep shade—just don't plant it in full sun. Cast iron plant is tolerant of a wide range of soils, from very rich to very poor. While tolerant of low moisture conditions, cast iron plant should be watered during periods of drought. The variegated version of this plant needs fairly poor soil to retain its coloration. The cultivar 'Variegata' has leaves alternately striped green and white in varied widths. Plants will tend to lose these stripes if planted in rich soil.

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INFORMATION**

Type: herbaceous perennial

USDA hardiness zones: 7 through 11

Uses: container or above-ground planter; ground cover; suitable for growing indoors; accent; edging

Origin: not native to North America

Height: 1 to 2 feet **Spread:** 1 to 2 feet

Plant spacing: 12 to 18 inches

Light requirement: plant grows in the shade

Soil tolerances: slightly alkaline; clay; sand; acidic; loam

Drought tolerance: moderate

Soil salt tolerances: poor

Invasive potential: not known to be invasive

Pest resistance: no serious pests are normally seen on the plant



Photo: UF/IFAS