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.

**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

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