

Lamium galeobdolon - Yellow Archangel

(Lamiaceae)

Lamium galeobdolon is known for its dense, silver-green mounding or mat-forming foliage and yellow, spring flowers. Yellow Archangel is used as a groundcover or perennial in the shady landscape. It is an example of a range of groundcovers that add color to shady areas where lawn will not grow.

FEATURES

Form

- perennial groundcover ('Variegata') or herbaceous perennial ('Herman's Pride'), depending upon cultivar
- maturing at about 1' tall x 1.5' wide ('Variegata') or 1' tall x 1' wide ('Herman's Pride')
- either a procumbent mat ('Variegata') or radiating clump ('Herman's Pride') growth habit, depending upon cultivar

Culture

- partial sun to full shade
- needs a moist, well-drained, rich soil in partial shade for optimum performance
- Mint Family, with no disease problems, but slug and snail pest problems affect the foliage on occasion
- propagated by crown division or rooted stem cuttings
- moderately available in containers or flats

Foliage

- medium to dark green (cultivars are silver-variegated), opposite, ovate, with an acute tip margins may be dentate to serrate ('Herman's Pride') or crenate ('Variegatum')
- basal leaves have long petioles, while leaves on the upper stems are sessile
- emerges in Mar. and grows rapidly in Apr. and May
- entire plant slowly dies back to the ground during winter (often evergreen in southern climates)



Flowers

- yellow, with a "hooded" upper petal and "lipped" lower petal that are characteristic of the Mint family flowering in Apr. and May and sporadically thereafter
- numerous clusters of small flowers occur at the stem nodes and also at the stem termini

Fruits

- brown and ornamentally inconspicuous

Twigs

- stems are square when viewed in cross-section, somewhat pubescent, and green

Trunk

- not applicable

USAGE

Function

- edging, border, foundation, or facer groundcover ('Variegata'), or clump perennial ('Herman's Pride'), used especially in shaded areas

Texture

- medium texture
- thick density

Assets

- dense silver-variegated foliage, found as a mounding to spreading groundcover or clump perennial, depending upon cultivar
- yellow spring flowers

Liabilities

- the groundcover form may become slowly invasive by stolons or rambling stems
- the groundcover form attracts leaf litter in late autumn and winter
- slugs and snails may be cosmetic pests to the foliage

Habitat

- Zones 5 to 8
- Native to Europe

SELECTIONS

Alternates

- other groundcovers for shady sites, especially those known for their variegated or semi-evergreen foliage (*Aegopodium podagraria* 'Variegatum', *Galium odoratum*, *Lamium maculatum*, *Liriope muscari*, *Pachysandra terminalis*, *Vinca minor* 'Ralph Shugert', etc.) or noted for their yellow spring flowers (*Ranunculus repens*, *Waldsteinia fragarioides*, etc.)
- partial shade perennials noted for their variegated foliage (*Heuchera* cultivars, *Hosta* cultivars, *Pulmonaria saccharata*, etc.)

Variants

- 'Herman's Pride' - a clump perennial that has sharply acuminate leaf apices and toothed margins, silver foliage with dark green veination, and a compact sphere growth habit, maturing at about 1' x 1'
- 'Florentinum' ('Variegatum') - more rounded and crenate leaves having silver variegation mottled with medium green; the typical groundcover form that looks viney, maturing at about 1' x 1.5' for an individual plant, but usually planted in masses for a rambling groundcover effect
- this species is also known by the scientific names of *Lamium galeobdolon* and *Galeobdolon luteum*