Johnny Jump-Up

Viola tricolor



Johnny Jump-Up in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 4 inches

Flower Height: 6 inches

Spread: 6 inches

Spacing: 5 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 2a

Ornamental Features

Johnny Jump-Up has masses of beautiful purple flowers with indigo overtones, yellow eyes and blue centers at the ends of the stems from early spring to late fall, which are most effective when planted in groupings. Its small crinkled round leaves remain green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Johnny Jump-Up is an herbaceous perennial with a mounded form. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Self-Seeding

Johnny Jump-Up is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



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Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Johnny Jump-Up will grow to be only 4 inches tall at maturity extending to 6 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 6 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 5 inches apart. It grows at a fast rate, and tends to be biennial, meaning that it puts on vegetative growth the first year, flowers the second, and then dies. However, this species tends to self-seed and will thereby endure for years in the garden if allowed. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!



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This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. Consider covering it with a thick layer of mulch in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is not originally from North America.

Johnny Jump-Up is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers against which the thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.