

CHICAGOLAND GROWS[®], INC.

Plant Introduction Program - Plant Release Bulletin #29

Whitewater Prostrate Speedwell

Veronica 'Whitewater' PPAF

The Whitewater prostrate speedwell is an attractive and durable groundcover adaptable to both sun and partial shade. Its glistening white flowers produced from April into June give way to attractive glossy dark green leaves on a dense groundcover plant. The leaves turn a dark burgundy in autumn and winter. *Veronica* 'Whitewater' is a stable branch sport from the popular *Veronica* 'Waterperry Blue'. Discovered by John Wachter at Elite Growers, Inc., Ingleside, Illinois, and co-introduced with Chicagoland Grows[®].



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Whitewater Prostrate Speedwell

Veronica 'Whitewater' PPAF

Botanical Name

Veronica 'Whitewater' PPAF

Common Name

Whitewater Prostrate Speedwell

Family

Plantaginaceae (formerly in Scrophulariaceae)

Origin

Discovered by John Wachter at Elite Growers, Inc., Ingleside, Illinois, this selection appeared as a white-flowered branch sport in a batch of propagations of *Veronica* 'Waterperry Blue'. The flower color has been stable through repeated propagation cycles and three years of in-ground trials. Otherwise, this selection is identical to *Veronica* 'Waterperry Blue'.

Hardiness

USDA Zones 4-7

Bloom Season

The selection bloomed from late April to late June with a peak bloom in mid-May in trials at the Chicago Botanic Garden (USDA Zone 5). A few flowers may appear sporadically throughout the remainder of summer and autumn.

Plant Habit

An herbaceous perennial that forms a dense low carpet. The prostrate stems root in as they spread.

Size

Plants grow 4 to 6 inches tall and spread 12 to 18 inches wide in a single season. Over time, it will cover a more expansive area.

Growth Rate

A vigorous spreader for a plant of its size.

Ornamental Characteristics

The glistening white, ½-inch-wide flowers are produced for an extended season from spring into early summer, with ½-inch-wide glossy dark green leaves produced on creeping wiry stems. The foliage turns an attractive burgundy to bronze in winter months. In mild climates, the plant can remain evergreen, extending the attractive winter color.

Culture

Full sun to partial shade on a medium to dry soil is recommended. Soil type and pH adaptable.

Pest and Disease Problems

No known pests or diseases. Deer and rabbit resistant.

Landscape Value

An excellent groundcover plant, useful in the rock garden, along paths and border edges, cascading over stone walls or among boulders, between pavers, and in the alpine garden. Use it as a "living mulch" under taller, airy shrubs or perennials that allow light through to their bases, or among bulbs such as lilies. This durable and adaptable groundcover plant is dense enough to suppress weeds, and tough enough to tolerate some foot traffic.

Propagation

Easy to root from shoot-tip cuttings taken any time the plant is in growth from spring to autumn. Cuttings can also be taken from potted plants forced over winter in a greenhouse. The rooted prostrate stems can be divided.

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The Chicagoland Grows® Plant Introduction Program is dedicated to the evaluation, selection, production, and marketing of recommended and new plant cultivars. Plants selected for the program have proven to be adaptable to the Midwest and are made available to the commercial and retail landscape industry through an international network of growers and propagators.

