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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**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.