

# Ritchie

## FEED & SEED INC.



### Corkscrew Onion

*Allium senescens*

Plant Height: 12 inches

Flower Height: 24 inches

Spread: 12 inches

Sunlight: ☉

Hardiness Zone: 2a

Other Names: German Garlic, Spiral Onion, Curly Chive

#### Description:

Spiraling foliage and pink-lavender flowers create a beautiful display in garden beds, borders or patio containers; foliage last throughout most of the summer months, while flowers generally bloom in late spring; deadhead after flowering to stop seeding

#### Ornamental Features

Corkscrew Onion has masses of beautiful balls of lightly-scented lavender flowers at the ends of the stems from late spring to early summer, which are most effective when planted in groupings. Its sword-like leaves remain green in colour throughout the season.

#### Landscape Attributes

Corkscrew Onion is an open herbaceous perennial with tall flower stalks held atop a low mound of foliage. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.



*Corkscrew Onion flowers*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



*Corkscrew Onion in bloom*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

#### Ottawa West

2079 Carp Road  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada  
K2S 1B9  
Telephone: +1 613 836 6880

#### Ottawa East

1390 Windmill Lane  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada  
K1B 4V5  
Toll Free: +1 800 267 1922  
Telephone: +1 613 741 4430

#### Brockville

3043 County Rd. 29  
Brockville, Ontario, Canada  
K6V 5T4  
Telephone: +1 613 341 9343

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This is a relatively low maintenance plant. Trim off the flower heads after they fade and die to encourage more blooms late into the season. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Self-Seeding

Corkscrew Onion is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

### **Planting & Growing**

Corkscrew Onion will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity extending to 24 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 12 inches. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 5 years. 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! As this plant tends to go dormant in summer, it is best interplanted with late-season bloomers to hide the dying foliage.

This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division.

Corkscrew Onion is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden. Be aware that in our climate, most plants cannot be expected to survive the winter if left in containers outdoors, and this plant is no exception. Contact our experts for more information on how to protect it over the winter months.

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