

PLANTS TO READ ABOUT

Catlin's Giant bugle: large leaves, low growth and blue spikes

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AI-created garden scene with a young plant based on the original shop photograph. Surroundings and accessories are not included in delivery.

Grow with knowledge.

A collection for observation and reference. Detailed explanations to help you make care decisions suited to your plant and its position.

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PLANT PORTRAIT

Ajuga reptans ‘Catlin’s Giant’

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Botanical name	Ajuga reptans ‘Catlin’s Giant’
Delivery size	Each in a 9 cm pot · approx. 10–25 cm total height · quantity according to selected set
Growth	Perennial runner-forming groundcover
Leaf colour	Green to dark bronze-purple; shade varies
Flower colour	Blue
Flowering	Late spring to summer
Expected height	Flower spikes about 20–30 cm; foliage lower
Planting	Spring or early autumn in frost-free soil
Spacing	Shop: 20–25 cm for dense coverage; allow greater gaps near small neighbours
Position	Partial shade to shade, with fresh soil

Care at a glance

Observe, check and adapt care to the position and season. This table provides guidance for everyday practice.

Topic	What to do	Why it helps
Position	Choose a fresh woodland edge or partly shaded border.	Large leaves lose their good shape more easily in a hot dry position.
Planting	Plant the moist root ball at its previous level and water thoroughly.	The centre stays clear while roots gain soil contact.
Spacing	Use 20–25 cm for dense coverage; do not crowd small neighbouring perennials.	Runners later spread Catlin's Giant beyond the original root ball.
Water	Check root-ball moisture during early establishment.	Beneath trees, rain may pass the foliage without sufficiently reaching young roots.
Soil	Maintain humus-rich soil and loosen compacted patches carefully.	Even moisture is useful; a closed wet planting pocket is not.
Nutrition	In spring, provide moderate compost or suitable fertiliser if needed.	Appropriate supply supports shoots without masking care errors with heavy feeding.
Tidying	Lift excess rooted runners; remove damaged leaves individually.	Foliage stays attractive when its edges are managed selectively.
Winter	Leave the border planting; shelter container roots and check when frost-free.	The garden perennial is long-lived, but a small pot gives roots little protection.

Knowledge that grows

A large name for a low garden plant

Catlin's Giant does not become a tall specimen perennial. Its distinctive expression comes from comparatively large glossy leaves. Green and dark bronze to purple tones change with light and development, while rosettes stay close to the ground. Blue flower spikes may rise above them in late spring and summer. Beside a path or in front of larger foliage perennials, these different levels are especially clear. One large leaf fan need not match the next precisely in colour: each plant develops with its position.

Delivery size and later coverage are two pictures

You begin with a young plant in a 9 cm pot, described at approximately 10–25 cm total height including the pot. Sideways-moving coverage develops only after establishment. Shop spacing of 20–25 cm suits a dense start but does not confine the perennial to that circle. Later flower spikes may reach approximately 20–30 cm. Allow extra room particularly beside small slow-growing neighbours and occasionally view the planting from above. Crowding then becomes noticeable in time.

Shade must still supply water

Catlin's Giant suits partial shade and shade if the root zone stays fresh. A broad tree canopy may protect from hot sun while also blocking rain. Before planting, check whether soil retains moisture somewhat below the surface. Loosen a compacted edge and add some humus-rich material if required without damaging major tree roots. Morning light or filtered daylight reveal leaf structure nicely. At a very dry garden edge, settle water supply first rather than planting bugle solely because the spot is shady.

From a small rosette to new roots

Choose a frost-free, preferably mild planting time. Slowly moisten a dry root ball first. Remove the pot at the root ball instead of pulling large leaves, and set the top level with surrounding soil. Firm gently and water thoroughly. Initially check directly at the former pot root ball: this is still its most important supplying area. A heavy shower farther away says little about that small zone. Spring and early-autumn planting are often easy to support; hot dry weeks demand more frequent checks.

Consider neighbours in a container

Broad bugle leaves can form a lovely lower layer in a larger planter too. Choose companions liking similarly fresh soil. Mixing moisture-needing bugle with plants that must stay permanently dry easily creates care compromises. The planter requires open drainage and sufficient root space. Water slowly, inspect drainage water and do not leave a full saucer. Check under spreading foliage whether compost is dry or still wet. First assess nutrients from existing compost and actual growth; the large cultivar name is no reason for a particularly heavy fertiliser dose.

Runners become design when you guide them

New rosettes can root along runners. They connect coverage but make occasional edge inspection worthwhile. Beside paths, between stones or directly next to a small perennial, carefully lift excess rooted pieces. They can start again in a free area. Young pieces also help if an old centre becomes gappy. Regular complete cutting is unnecessary. Remove only troublesome old flower spikes or damaged leaves and let healthy rosettes retain their low structure.

Check roots in winter and shoots in spring

The perennial remains in the garden. Not every old leaf needs to stay beautiful in harsh weather; loose dead parts can be removed carefully later. Containers create different conditions: cooling from all sides and drying on windy frost-free days. Shelter them and check moisture without watering frozen soil. In spring fresh growth shows how the plant continues. With a whitish coating or weak coverage, inspect leaves and roots first rather than increasing water, fertiliser and cutting back all at once as a precaution.

Pictures and details

Images and descriptions from this portrait. Decorative items are not included in the offer.



AI-created enlarged leaf detail based on the original shop photograph; not a depiction of delivery size.



Original shop photograph. 9 cm pot · approx. 10–25 cm total height.

Good to know

Does Catlin's Giant really become huge?

The name mainly refers to large leaves. Bugle remains groundcover; flower spikes reach approximately 20–30 cm.

Why are some leaves greener?

Colour tone and sheen change with light and leaf age. Foliage is not constantly equally dark purple.

Should I space it at 20 cm?

The shop suggests 20–25 cm for dense coverage. Give small neighbours more room and plan for later runners.

Does it suit deep shade?

Shade is possible if soil stays fresh enough. Root competition and rain interception under trees must be considered.

Must it be divided every year?

No. Divide only when needed, for overwide edges or renewal of older gappy patches.

Why do I sometimes still water after rain?

Tree canopies can intercept water. Check moisture at the young root ball first and water only if genuinely needed.

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English portrait



Shop offer