

PLANTS TO READ ABOUT

Harlequin wintercreeper: creamy speckles along the low garden edge

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AI-created garden scene based on the young original plant: one Harlequin in a 9-cm nursery pot, approx. 10–25 cm total height including pot. Quantity according to set selection; surroundings and accessories not included.

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

Euonymus fortunei ‘Harlequin’ · wintercreeper

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Botanical name	Euonymus fortunei ‘Harlequin’ · wintercreeper
Delivery size	9-cm pot · approx. 10–25 cm total height including pot · quantity according to set selection
Lifespan & habit	Long-lived low evergreen shrub with fine branches
Expected height	Described around 60 cm; planning range about 0.5–1 m height and width over several years
Leaf appearance	Narrow green leaves with creamy speckles and patches; pink autumn/winter tint possible
Flowering season & colour	Inconspicuous flowers secondary to foliage effect; no documented exact cultivar date or current cover
Planting time	Spring or autumn in frost-free workable soil
Planting distance	About 40–50 cm as the shop’s group guide; consider later width

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
On arrival	Check each small root ball and hold it when unpotting.	Fine branches should not carry root weight.
Position	Choose sun to partial shade with accessible root space.	Pale leaves and small root balls need suitable care.
Soil	Prepare moisture-retentive free-draining soil.	Standing water and dust-dry paving edges stress young plants.
Planting	Plant frost-free in spring or autumn at the previous level.	Soil contact and watering in support new roots.
Spacing	Use 40–50 cm as the shop's guide, considering later width and paths.	A young pot does not yet form a closed edging.
Watering	Check root ball and neighbouring soil and slowly moisten when needed.	New roots and containers have limited reserves.
Pruning	Shape individual branches in spring and remove entirely green reverted shoots at their origin.	Normally speckled green leaf areas are retained.
Winter	Protect containers, secure free drainage and frost-free moisture checks.	Evergreen foliage remains active even in dry winter periods.
Problems & handling	Check coatings, scales and feeding marks; wear gloves.	The fixed pale pattern is not fungal coating; do not eat plant parts.

Knowledge that grows

Creamy speckles run through the whole leaf

Harlequin shows a changing pattern of green areas and creamy speckles. On the small narrow elongated leaves, markings are not only at the edge; they spread irregularly across the leaf surface. White can be especially noticeable at young tips. Leaves stand in opposite pairs on fine branches, and the plant develops as a low evergreen shrub. Harlequin is a named cultivar of *Euonymus fortunei*, wintercreeper. Its foliage accompanies a border even without striking flowers. A pink tint may be added in autumn and winter. Its strength depends on conditions; do not plan a constantly pink delivery. Small green areas belong to the pattern and are not automatically reverted growth.

A young plant does not anticipate the later shrub

The offer states 9-cm pots and about 10–25 cm total height including pot. Quantity follows set selection. The clean young-plant picture shows individual fine upright branches in a black square pot. When unpotting, carefully hold the root ball rather than using upper speckled branches as a handle. A developed Harlequin is described as a low shrub about 60 cm tall; for space planning a range of about 0.5–1 m height and width is sensible. These garden dimensions may develop over five to ten years and are affected by position and pruning. They are not delivery measurements. Place young pots provisionally before planting: growth lies between sparse young shoots and a low closed edging.

Plant brightly and consider the soil too

Sun to partial shade suits Harlequin if soil holds moisture and drains excess water. Pale foliage should be well lit, but a dry hot paving edge can unnecessarily stress the small root ball. Find a position with connected root space. Beneath a large woody plant, its root competition is part of the assessment even if light seems pleasantly soft. In a permanently wet hollow, a brighter position alone does not help. Loosen compacted soil sufficiently and check whether rainwater can drain. The small wintercreeper suits a low group or edging; a pale pot can also display it. Plan later width and branches that remain reachable when choosing a container.

Lay out the group and connect every root ball

Spring and autumn in frost-free workable soil are favourable planting times. Slowly moisten dry root balls rather than putting dry soil straight into a wet hole. Preserve the previous root-ball level. The shop gives about 40–50 cm spacing as a group guide. Use this when setting out young plants and additionally check later width and the path edge. It promises no date when the group becomes dense. Water thoroughly after planting and observe whether water reaches the old root-ball core too. Loose cover between shrubs can accompany open soil; branch bases and accessible border edge remain free. In a container, structurally stable compost and free drainage matter more than a closed decorative outer pot.

Decide by moisture during establishment

In dry periods first check the original small root ball, then soil beside it. Their moisture may differ. When water is needed, water slowly at the root area and moisten soil rather than briefly spraying leaves. Established wintercreepers cope better with temporary dryness, yet the new 9-cm root ball needs a reliable start. Reserves remain limited in containers later too. Heat, wind, rain and roof shelter change demand; a calendar alone helps little. A small amount of water does not mean little care work. Frequent extra feeding is usually unnecessary in well-supplied garden soil. With weak shoots, first check soil, moisture and light. Supply container plants during growth according to need and the fertiliser label.

Distinguish speckled growth while pruning

Individual targeted spring cuts can keep Harlequin in its low form. Shorten intrusive branches with sharp shears so small leaves remain whole where possible. Cutting across all leaves can create brown cut edges. Before working, check a dense shrub for occupied nests. If a permanently entirely green strong branch develops, trace it to its origin and remove it there. Individual green areas on an otherwise white-speckled leaf are normal patterning instead. Observe the whole shoot rather than one leaf. Flowers are secondary for this foliage shrub; an exact recurring Harlequin flowering time is unnecessary for its garden effect. The pattern and an orderly edge carry the design.

Separate winter colouring from damage and coatings

Creamy speckles do not disappear simply because the cold season begins. A pink flush can be added; individual older leaves are still replaced. In dry wind and with pots under roofs, check root-ball moisture on frost-free days. A small container is more exposed to winter conditions than established roots in soil and gets a sheltered position with free drainage. Fine feeding notches, leaf loss or small scales on branches justify closer pest checks, for example for vine weevils or scale insects. A white coating lying on the surface is distinct from fixed leaf patterning. Check lasting wetness and dryness first before adding fertiliser. Plant parts do not belong in the kitchen; wear gloves when pruning and transplanting.

Pictures and details

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



Unchanged clean original shop view of the young delivery form, 9-cm pot and approx. 10–25 cm total height including pot.



Unchanged clean original shop view with more developed foliage. Later state, no promised delivery size or identical colour on every plant.



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AI-created enlarged detail of young leaf patterning. Pale patches run through the leaf surfaces; no larger delivery plant.

Good to know

Is Harlequin white only at the leaf edge?

Creamy patterning is described as strong speckling and blotching through the narrow leaves. Remaining green areas belong to the changing pattern.

Does it turn pink every winter?

A pink flush is possible in autumn and winter. Strength and occurrence depend on conditions; an always identical pink colour is not promised.

Is 10-25 cm its garden height?

No. That is young total height including pot. A developed shrub may later become about 0.5–1 m tall and wide.

How do I remove a green reverted shoot?

Observe whether the entire strong branch remains permanently pure green. Then trace it to the origin and remove it there. Retain green areas on speckled leaves.

Does a newly planted wintercreeper need little water?

The small root ball needs controlled moisture while establishing. Older roots explore more soil; pots still rely on regular checks.

Can I simply shear the low form?

Targeted branch cuts retain whole leaves. Heavily cross-cut leaves can develop brown edges; check for occupied nests before pruning.

What should I do with a white coating?

Creamy leaf patterning is fixed tissue. A coating lying on the surface calls for a separate check of leaves, ventilation and condition; it is not automatically normal speckling.

The matching offer

[Plant in the shop](#)

Product and delivery details are given in the individual offer.

[Read the complete portrait in English](#)



English portrait



Shop offer