

PLANTS TO READ ABOUT

Heliotrope: violet flower clouds above deeply veined foliage

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AI-created scene based on the original shop photograph. Example plants and colour combination; decorations are not included. Size reference: 3 plants · 11 cm pot each · plant height approx. 25–35 cm.

Grow with knowledge.

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

Issue October 2026

PLANT PORTRAIT

Heliotropium arborescens

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Botanical name	Heliotropium arborescens
Delivery size	3 plants · 11 cm pot each · plant height approx. 25–35 cm
Family	Boraginaceae
Flower colour	Violet to purple
Flowering	Summer, extending into autumn in suitable growing conditions
Lifespan	Frost-sensitive perennial; often grown seasonally outdoors
Planting time	After the last frosts
Height	Generally about 30–60 cm in seasonal cultivation; selection and growing conditions influence growth
Plant spacing	About 30–45 cm as a guide; consider the later crown
Special feature	Vanilla-like flower scent; ornamental plant, not for eating

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
Light	Sunny, protected from extreme afternoon heat.	Flowering and the plant's supplies must suit the same position.
Planting	Acclimatise gradually after the risk of frost.	The species is frost-sensitive.
Moisture	Keep reliably moist and check the root ball.	Broad foliage needs an available water supply.
Drainage	Remove excess water.	Moist does not mean waterlogged and deprived of oxygen.
Soil	Use humus-rich, well-drained soil.	The small root base should be able to develop evenly.
Nutrients	Feed during growth according to the label.	Do not double up on existing fertiliser.
Shape	Gently pinch young tips when needed.	This can encourage branching.
Safe position	Do not eat; protect against nibbling.	The ornamental plant contains toxic substances.

Knowledge that grows

Many small flowers form a cloud

Heliotrope forms dense clusters of tiny violet flowers above dark green foliage. A closer look reveals individual small flowers and the strong leaf veins beneath them. Its scent is described as vanilla-like; how clearly we notice it also depends on flowering and surroundings. *Heliotropium arborescens* comes from western South America and is not a winter-hardy border perennial in Germany. Place the plants in an accessible summer position where the flowers can be admired. Their beauty and culinary-sounding name do not make them an edible herb.

Give the young group room to develop

The set contains three plants, each in an 11 cm pot, with a plant height of about 25 to 35 cm. This delivery figure is not a fixed final height and is not reinterpreted as total height. Specialist profiles often give roughly thirty to sixty centimetres for seasonal cultivation, without precisely defining an unnamed variety. Arrange the young crowns loosely before planting. About thirty to forty-five centimetres spacing can serve as a guide for a group; usable compost volume and clear access for care also matter in a container.

Sunshine with an eye on the hot hours

A sunny position supports flowering. In very hot summer weather, protection during the harshest afternoon hours can help. Acclimatise young plants gradually after transport and plant outdoors only after the risk of frost. A sheltered terrace is often easier to care for than a windy, overheated planter. Check not only the sunlight on the flowers but also the warmth around the pot. The broad leaf area should be able to benefit from its position without the small root ball drying out completely every day.

Moisture supports leaves and flowers

Heliotropes like humus-rich, reliably moist and well-drained soil. Feel beneath the leafy crown before watering too, and supply the root ball slowly. Excess water must not remain standing. With limp foliage, first check whether the soil is dry or already wet. Under a roof, rain does not automatically reach the pot. An accessible group makes it easier to check all three plants. Consumption changes as the crown grows or warm air blows. A fixed calendar therefore fits less well than a brief look at the actual root-ball condition.

Support branching and flower care calmly

During vigorous growth, feed according to the fertiliser label, taking account of nutrients in newly pre-fertilised compost. Young shoot tips can be gently shortened if bushier growth is desired. Remove faded heads and damaged parts cleanly. Look beneath the deeply veined foliage during care: whiteflies and mites are possible problems, not an inevitable consequence of the species. Do not prune heavily and greatly alter supplies at the same time. Healthy new growth is a better measure than expecting every individual flower to remain indefinitely.

A scented position with clear winter planning

The frost-sensitive perennial is often kept for just one summer. Continuing its cultivation requires a bright, frost-free position and adjusted watering. The plant is poisonous if eaten; flowers, leaves and other parts do not belong in drinks or desserts. Position it where it will not be nibbled. Compare flowering, leaf structure and the later spread of the crown in the plant book. Also record the summer position and whether heat protection was helpful. Such observations turn a pretty scented motif into a deliberately cared-for plant.

Pictures and details

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



AI-created detail view based on the original shop photograph.
Enlarged crop; not a representation of delivery size.



Original shop photograph of the offered plant. 3 plants · 11 cm
pot each · plant height approx. 25–35 cm.



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Good to know

Is heliotrope real vanilla?

No. Its German name describes the ornamental plant's scent, not a spice harvest.

Can I eat the flowers?

No. The plant is poisonous if eaten.

Will all plants remain 35 cm tall?

That is the young plant height; later size depends on selection and cultivation.

Why are the leaves drooping?

Check root-ball moisture and heat together; wet, damaged roots can cause problems too.

Is it an annual plant?

Botanically it is a frost-sensitive perennial, but it is often kept seasonally outdoors.

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