

Bear's Breeches

Acanthus spinosus



Above: Stiff, spiny leaves provide interest in spring and fall

Right: Multiple upright flower heads on a single plant



Right: The white flowers and purple bracts of Bear's Breeches.



Bear's Breeches

Acanthus spinosus

Family: Acanthaceae

Stem & Leaf Type: herbaceous perennial
Size: 36-48" tall and 24" wide
USDA Hardiness Zones: 5
Leaves: basal, deeply pinnatifid, toothed lobes
Leaf Color: dark green, glossy
Fall Color: none
Flowers: white erect spikes, 4-lobed
Fruit: two-celled capsule
Light: full sun-part shade
Moisture: well-drained
Insect/Disease Issues: none
Nativity: Mediterranean
Location in the Gardens: Events Plaza



Culture & Landscape Value:

Tolerates a wide range of soils and light conditions.
 Winter mulch is advisable if not planted in a protected spot.
 Can be grown from seed or root division.

Notes:

Architectural bi-color flower spikes and glossy foliage make this a striking plant in any garden.
 Acanthus is the inspiration of the Corinthian leaf motif used in ancient Greek and Roman art
 The origin of the common name is a mystery—one speculation is that it was originally Bear's Claw or Bear's Foot, after the shape of the bract below each flower

Months of Interest:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec