

Heuchera villosa

Hairy Alumroot

Tried and True
Native Plant Selections
for the Mid-Atlantic

Although Hairy Alumroot's native* habit in Virginia is mostly in the southwestern mountains, not NoVA, its five-inch wide, semi-evergreen leaves and late-season flower plumes make it worthy of consideration for a woodland garden. There also are many fine cultivars of this species available.



Ground Cover	Colony, Flowers with Pollinator,** Capsules
Height: 1½–2½ feet	
Spread: 1–2 feet	
Bloom Color: White, pinkish	
Characteristics	
Semi-evergreen , low-mounding, herbaceous perennial	
Large, basal, rosulate , palmate , velvety, triangular toothed leaves w/ nearly glabrous to villous petioles	
Tiny flowers with villous calyxes and exserted stamens and styles in open, airy panicles with usually rusty-villous peduncles June to October	
2-beaked capsules with 2 persistent styles	
Attributes	
Tolerates shade (prefers some shade in south); intolerant of drought (keep soil moist); no serious pests or diseases although crowns may rot in poorly drained soil; deer seldom severely damage	
Foliage should remain through milder winters	
Ethnobotanic and therapeutic uses	
Attracts butterflies, bees; larval host to one moth	
Growing and Maintenance Tips	Excellent Replacement for
Soil Requirements : Humus-rich, well-drained	Glechoma hederacea - Ground Ivy
Light Requirements : Sun, Partial Shade, Shade	Hedera helix - English Ivy
Water Requirements : Moist	Liriope spicata - Creeping Liriope
Remove faded flower stems to stimulate rebloom	Pachysandra terminalis - Japanese Pachysandra
Apply mulch after ground freezes to protect roots; remove any winter-damaged foliage early spring	Vinca minor - Periwinkle
Divide clumps in spring every 3 to 4 years	
Use as edger along paths or walkways or en masse in woodland gardens or to control erosion	*In the Mid-Atlantic Region, it is not native to DC, DE, MD, PA, or NoVA. In VA, it is common in the southwestern mountains, becoming less common northward to Rockingham County, and infrequent to rare in the inner south Piedmont. **Probably common eastern bumble bee.
Hardiness : USDA Zones 3–8	
developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria	

Images by Mary Free (capsules) and Elaine Mills, Green Spring Gardens and the Nature Conservancy Garden