

Origanum syriacum

(Wild Marjoram, Syrian Oregano, Bible Hyssop)

Origanum syriacum is a perennial shrub, with small hairy oblong-ovate leaves with a pleasant "Thyme-like" smell. It is a 60 to 80 cm height plant. The small hairy leaves covering its multiple stems give the whole plant a grayish appearance and help the plant withstand drought conditions. It bears on its upper branches dense spikes of small, white flowers.

Origanum syriacum grows wild in the Lebanese mountains and can be found everywhere in rocky places from the North to the South and at different altitudes. Origanum is used widely in the Lebanese cuisine, raw or cooked, and is commonly found in Lebanese stores and homes. It is a very important plant as far as its economic use is concerned. Recently and due to its economic importance to Lebanon, Origanum syriacum is being cultivated to cover the needs of the local market.

Origanum syriacum requires a dry, warm, well drained, non fussy soil. Prefers slightly alkaline conditions. Other than the culinary usage, zaatar can be used in mass plantation, perfect for xeriscaping.



Plant Image

Landscape Information

French Name: Origan de Syrie

Zaatar :**Arabic Name** زعتر

Pronunciation: or-RI-ga-num seer-ee-AK-um

Plant Type: Shrub

Origin: Mediteraaneaen

Heat Zones:

Hardiness Zones: 9, 10, 11

Uses: Mass Planting, Container, Edible, Medicinal, Wildlife, Native to Lebanon, Ground cover

Size/Shape

Growth Rate: Moderate

Tree Shape: Round

Canopy Symmetry: Symmetrical

Canopy Density: Medium

Canopy Texture: Fine

Height at Maturity: 0.5 to 1 m

Spread at Maturity: 0.5 to 1 meter

Time to Ultimate Height: 1 to 2 Years

Notes

3 plants can be planted per meter square

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Flower Image

Botanical Description

Foliage

Leaf Arrangement: Opposite

Leaf Venation: Pinnate

Leaf Persistence: Evergreen

Leaf Type: Simple

Leaf Blade: Less than 5

Leaf Shape: Ovate

Leaf Margins: Entire

Leaf Textures: Hairy

Leaf Scent: Pleasant

Color(growing season): Silver, Blue-Green

Flower

Flower Showiness: True

Flower Size Range: 0 - 1.5

Flower Scent: Pleasant

Flower Color: White

Seasons: Spring, Summer

Trunk

Trunk Susceptibility to Breakage: Generally resists breakage

Number of Trunks: Multi-Trunked

Fruit

Fruit Showiness: False

Fruit Size Range: 0 - 1.5

Fruit Colors: Black

Seasons: Spring, Summer

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Other Image

Horticulture Management

Tolerance

Frost Tolerant: Yes

Drought Tolerant: Yes

Requirements

Soil Requirements: Clay, Loam, Sand

Soil Ph Requirements: Acidic, Neutral

Water Requirements: Moderate, Low

Light Requirements: Full

Management

Invasive Potential: No

Pruning Requirement: Little needed, to develop a strong structure

Fruit/ Leaves/ Flowers litter: No

Surface Rooting: No

Edible Parts: Leaf

Plant Propagations: Seed, Cutting
