

Chicagoland Grows[®], Inc.

Plant Introduction Program - Plant Release Bulletin #31

Tidal Pool Prostrate Speedwell

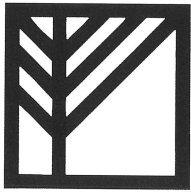
Veronica 'Tidal Pool' PPAF

The Tidal Pool prostrate speedwell is a vigorous and adaptable ever-green ground cover with medium to deep blue-violet flowers in spring and attractive small oak-like leaves all season long. Selected from a hybrid cross made at the Chicago Botanic Garden in 2007.



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Tidal Pool Prostrate Speedwell

Veronica 'Tidal Pool' PPAF



Botanical Name

Veronica 'Tidal Pool' PPAF

Common Name

Tidal Pool Prostrate Speedwell

Family

Plantaginaceae (formerly in Scrophulariaceae)

Origin

Selected in 2008 from a cross made in 2007 at Chicago Botanic Garden by Dr. Jim Ault. The parents of this hybrid speedwell are *Veronica armena* and *Veronica pectinata* 'Rosea', both reliable and popular prostrate speedwells.

Hardiness

USDA Zones 4-7.

Bloom Season

This selection bloomed on average for four weeks from early to mid-May until early to mid-June in trials at the Chicago Botanic Garden (USDA Zone 5b). Plants then lightly repeat-bloomed from late June into late September.

Plant Habit

An herbaceous perennial that forms a dense, low and spreading carpet. The prostrate stems root in as they spread. Crowns have remained uniform throughout, unlike some prostrate speedwells that can open up over time.

Size

Plants grow from 3 to 4 inches tall and will spread upwards of 30 inches wide in a single season. Over time, it will cover a more expansive area. The plant spreads faster than either of its parent species.

Growth Rate

A vigorous spreader for a plant of its size and parentage.

Ornamental Characteristics

The medium to dark blue-violet flowers blanket the plant in late spring, with sporadic repeat bloom afterward well into autumn. The attractive, fine-textured foliage is evergreen, providing an excellent backdrop to its spring flowers and as a complement to bulbs and other perennials. The small oak-like leaves are medium green with a faint silvery-blue cast from its slight pubescence. This selection is in active growth much of the growing season, giving it a "fresh" appearance for much of the year. The spent inflorescences are quickly covered by new growth.

Culture

Full sun and a well-drained, medium-moist to dry soil is recommended. Quite drought-tolerant once established. It has grown equally well on a very sandy soil as well as on a heavy clay soil, as long as the latter was well drained.

Pest and Disease Problems

No known pests and minimal disease problems. Powdery mildew resistant. Slight melting out was observed only once during a period of unusually wet and hot weather, but plants rapidly filled in the affected areas with new growth. Deer and rabbit resistant.

Landscape Value

An excellent ground cover plant, useful in the rock garden, along paths and border edges, cascading over stone walls or among stones and boulders, on slopes, between pavers, and any other sunny locations calling for a durable ground cover. Dense enough to suppress weeds, and tough enough to tolerate limited foot traffic.

Propagation

Easy to root from shoot tip cuttings taken from in-ground grown plants any time the plant is in growth from spring to autumn. Cuttings can also be taken from potted stock plants any time of the year. In-ground grown plants can also be lifted and divided into smaller clumps of rooted-in shoots in either spring or autumn.

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The Chicagoland Grows® Plant Introduction Program is dedicated to the evaluation, selection, production, and marketing of recommended and new plant cultivars. Plants selected for the program have proven to be adaptable to the Midwest and are made available to the commercial and retail landscape industry through an international network of growers and propagators.



For more information about Chicagoland Grows®, contact the Plant Introduction Department, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, IL 60022, (847) 835-8301 or visit www.chicagolandgrows.org.