



**Garden Star Of Bethlehem**  
*Ornithogalum umbellatum*

Height: 12 inches  
Spread: 24 inches  
Spacing: 18 inches  
Sunlight:    
Hardiness Zone: 4a

Other Names: Grass Lily, Nap-at-Noon,  
Eleven-o'clock-Lady

**Description:**

Numerous, tiny white flowers in late spring, massed above low, spreading foliage; impressive when massed in the garden or along borders; may need to be contained in desired area, as it will spread aggressively; classified as invasive in many areas

**Ornamental Features**

Garden Star Of Bethlehem features showy racemes of white star-shaped flowers rising above the foliage in late spring. Its grassy leaves remain dark green in color throughout the season.

**Landscape Attributes**

Garden Star Of Bethlehem is an herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should not require much pruning, except when necessary, such as to remove dieback. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spreading
- Invasive

Garden Star Of Bethlehem is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting



*Garden Star Of Bethlehem flowers*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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## **Planting & Growing**

Garden Star Of Bethlehem will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 18 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by multiplication of the underground bulbs.

Garden Star Of Bethlehem is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers against which the larger thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.