

CARYOPTERIS 'White Surprise'

Origin: Discovered as a sport on a Dutch Nursery

Species: *clandonensis*

Protection Status: Patent rights asserted

Characteristics:

Caryopteris 'White Surprise' is a sport of Caryopteris 'Heavenly Blue'. The unique feature about **'White Surprise'** is the white variegated leaf - its stability has been proven through repeated propagations. The flower is a soft blue in Europe but as seen in 'Heavenly Blue', it might be darker in the US. The habit is the same as 'Heavenly Blue'. The nearest comparison variety is 'Snow Fairy', which differs as the species is *divaricata* which completely dies to the ground with no woody growth whatsoever. 'Snow Fairy' blooms VERY late in the season and the blooms are almost solitary, as opposed to **'White Surprise'** which blooms earlier and has that familiar whorl around the stem. With its strong flower power, **'White Surprise'** is ideal for mixed perennial and shrub borders and as a general landscape plant. It also looks gorgeous in a patio container, making a bold, colorful statement because of its variegation. Please note: no burning has been observed in Europe, but this needs testing in US conditions.

Hardiness: Roots are winter hardy to USDA Zone 5, top growth is hardy to USDA Zone 6 / 7.

Bloom: In Holland a light blue. If same as 'Heavenly Blue', then the flower may be darker under US conditions

Foliage: Green with distinct white margins

Habit: Same as Heavenly Blue: compact and tidy and at maturity about 3' x 3'

Propagation: Semi-ripe cuttings. *License required for propagation.*

Culture: Well-drained soil in partial to full sun. Prefers loose loams. Tolerates some drought. Intolerant of wet, poorly-drained soils. Long days trigger bloom.

Use: Standout color item in a mixed border and in a container



Full plant shot



Close-up of foliage