Sun King Japanese Spikenard - New For 2026!

Aralia cordata 'Sun King'

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 3

Other Names: Golden Japanese Spikenard



Sun King Japanese Spikenard
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Description:

Large golden compound leaves and a rounded, tidy habit makes this a wonderful woodland accent plant; white flower clusters are airy and visually pleasing; foliage is more yellow-gold in bright sun; deep purple-black berries are not edible

Ornamental Features

Sun King Japanese Spikenard features airy racemes of white star-shaped flowers at the ends of the stems from mid to late summer. Its large serrated pointy compound leaves emerge lemon yellow in spring, turning gold in color throughout the season. It produces deep purple berries from early to late fall.



Sun King Japanese Spikenard
foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Sun King Japanese Spikenard is an herbaceous perennial with a ground-hugging habit of growth. Its wonderfully bold, coarse texture can be very effective in a balanced garden composition.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best cut back to the ground in late winter before active growth resumes. It is a good choice for attracting birds and bees to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Suckering

Sun King Japanese Spikenard is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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



Sun King Japanese Spikenard
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Sun King Japanese Spikenard will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. It tends to be leggy, with a typical clearance of 3 feet from the ground, and should be underplanted with lower-growing perennials. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 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 performs well in both full sun and full shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.