



**Common Names:**  
Spiny Bear's Breeches

**Plant Type:** Perennial

**Light Requirements:**  
Partial Shade

**Height:** 3-4 ft.

**Bloom Time:** June-  
August

**Hardiness Zone:** 5-9

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## **Acanthus spinosus**

*Acanthus spinosus*, or spiny bear's breeches, is a clump-forming herbaceous perennial that is native to Southern Europe and the Mediterranean. It has glossy green toothed leaves which resemble that of a thistle and has stiff spines along the margin. The flower stalk is a tall spike of white flowers that are reminiscent of snapdragons. The bracts that surround the flower are a purple-mauve color, giving the flower a striking bi-color appearance.

Spiny bear's breeches grows best in partial shade in many different types of soil, so long as they are well-drained, as the plant cannot tolerate wet or soggy conditions. Despite being somewhat slow to establish, they can spread aggressively by roots in optimal conditions. Bear's breeches can be difficult to remove once it is established since small sections of root left behind will sprout new plants. Given its height and spread, it is well suited to the back of a border.

References:

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/acanthus>

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/acanthus-spinosus/>