

CHICAGOLAND GROWS[®], INC.

Plant Introduction Program - Plant Release Bulletin #33

Prince Charming Solomon's Seal

Polygonatum 'Prince Charming' PP#22,304

This new Solomon's seal produces attractive green foliage that can take on a bluish cast in full sun, contrasting with the gray undersides of the leaves. The profusion of creamy white flowers produced in spring are followed by green berries that turn purple in autumn. A vigorous spreader, yet compact, growing only to 12 inches of height. Developed by Brent Horvath of Intrinsic Perennial Gardens, Hebron, Illinois, and co-introduced with Chicagoland Grows[®].



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Botanical Name

Polygonatum 'Prince Charming' PP#22,304

Common Name

Prince Charming Solomon's Seal

Family

Liliaceae (in flux, also variously listed in Asparagaceae, Convallariaceae, and Ruscaceae)

Origin

Selected in 2003 from an open-pollinated seedling block derived from unnamed plants of *P. biflorum*, and initiated in propagation and field trials in 2004. The exact parentage of 'Prince Charming' is unknown; however, it is believed to be a hybrid between *P. biflorum* and *P. humile* based on its characteristics and the presence of *P. humile* in the growing area of the original seed parent. Developed and selected by Brent Horvath of Intrinsic Perennial Gardens, Hebron, Illinois, and co-introduced with Chicagoland Grows®.

Hardiness

USDA Zones 4-7.

Bloom Season

Plants are typically in bloom for three weeks from mid-May to early June in northern Illinois (USDA Zone 5a).

Plant Habit

An herbaceous perennial that spreads by stout, creeping rhizomes, which produce a profusion of compact, upright to slightly arching stems. Mature plants form an attractive dense clump of uniform stems.

Size

A compact selection for a Solomon's seal, growing only 9 to 12 inches tall, yet spreading quickly to form a clump twice as wide in a few years.

Growth Rate

A vigorous grower for a plant of its size.

Ornamental Characteristics

One of the most attractive selections of Solomon's seal available. The creamy white, slightly fragrant, 1-inch-long flowers are produced in profusion in late spring, followed by green berries that turn purple in autumn. Foliage is a medium green to blue-green in stronger light, with a contrasting gray underside, turning a golden yellow in late autumn. Densely produced stems are uniformly upright to slightly arching. The only more compact Solomon's seal is *P. humile*, which can be so short as to often get overrun by taller perennials. 'Prince Charming' forms a striking, dense colony in a few years.

Culture

Prefers a moist, organic-rich soil in partial to deep shade, but will tolerate a drier site in shade and a sunny site if given adequate moisture. Soil type and pH adaptable. Minimal maintenance, as it rarely needs dividing, and only needs an annual clean-up of the dead stems after hard freezing weather in autumn.

Pest and Disease Problems

No known pests or diseases. Deer and rabbit resistant.

Landscape Value

This graceful and striking perennial can be used in the perennial border, woodland garden, or partially shaded rock garden. Utilize as a slowly spreading groundcover, or as an accent plant. Site where you can appreciate its multiple seasons of interest, from the bloom display in the spring, to its attractive foliage all summer, finishing with its purple fruit and yellow foliage in autumn. Long-lived, pest-free, and truly low maintenance.

Propagation

This selection is readily propagated by rhizome divisions.

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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.