

Okinawa spinach (*Gynura crepidioides*)

This attractive perennial herb has half purple, half dark green leaves that make a delicious addition to salads, or can be cooked as a potherb. It propagates well from cuttings, that you must take before winter as the plant will not survive a freeze. Rooting the cutting in water before planting so that it forms good roots improves results. As with most cuttings, remove all but the top few leaves of a cutting to reduce water loss until it grows new roots. Rooting is very slow in cold weather.

Okinawa lettuce can be used in landscaping as a groundcover in full sun (with enough water) or it does well in partial shade. It needs little, but does appreciate some soil amending/fertilizing.

It can be cooked like spinach – but don't overcook it as it can become unpleasantly slimy. Click on the Recipes link at our website to get some great ideas for cooking it!

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