



STACHYS LANATA

Fam. Lamiaceae

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen ornamental ground-covering herbaceous plant, resistant to droughts and summer heat. It is an excellent ground cover as it forms dense cushions of silvery-grey leaves.

HABITAT

Perennial plant native to Turkey and Iran.

LEAVES

Thick, rugose, presenting a light mesh-like pattern; they are densely covered on both faces with very thick hair coating; the undersides are more silver-white than the top surfaces. They are arranged oppositely on the stems and are 5 to 10 cm long.

SEEDS

Small and oblong, enclosed in pods; when fully ripe, they fall to the ground giving life to new plants.

STEM

Erect stems, with a quadrangular section, growing about 40 cm tall.

DISTRIBUTION

It grows spontaneously in almost all areas of the Middle East; in Italy, it is cultivated to create sensory gardens or ground covers in public and private gardens.

FLOWERS

Bundled in inflorescences similar to spikes, the flowers are small, velvety and generally pink, purple or lilac with dark-purple veins on the inside. *Stachys lanata* blooms from June to July.

ROOTS

Tuberous-rhizomatous root system with several adventitious roots.

INTERESTING FACTS

Commonly known as Lamb's-ear, in Brazil it is called Lambari and is also used in cooking as a substitute for common sage to flavour first and second courses. Due to its soft foliage, *Stachys lanata* is used in sensory gardens, where children can touch it and discover the pleasant sensations offered by nature.

