

Spiny Bear's Breeches



IN JUNE, visitors to River Farm are often stopped in their tracks by the unusual flowers and prickly-looking leaves of spiny bear's breeches (*Acanthus spinosus*). This herbaceous perennial grows three to four feet tall and slightly less in diameter, with a dense, pyramidal shape. Its glossy, dark green leaves emerge in April and remain attractive through fall, while the spikes of white flowers with purple bracts bloom from May through midsummer. Drought tolerant once established, spiny bear's breeches thrives in full sun to part shade. (USDA Zones 5–9, AHS Zones 9–5.)

