

## Tricyrtis - Growing Guide

### Growing Tricyrtis

*Snake lily, toad lily*

These are rhizomatous herbaceous perennials with peculiarly intricate and attractive orchid like flowers which can surprise and stun those who have not seen this genus performing before. They caught my interest a long time ago and have become increasingly more popular nursery plants as awareness has grown. However as they originate from Taiwan (*T. formosana*) and Japan (*T. hirta*) and are such an odd genus it is necessary to provide them with the best conditions to achieve the best results.

In the wild *Tricyrtis* grow in moist woodland, mountains and cliffs. As such they are therefore best suited to a shady border, a peat bank or perhaps naturalising in a woodland garden. As you would expect, knowing this, they are fully hardy although, at first sight, their orchid like flowers mistakenly suggest tenderness.

*T. formosana* has erect zig-zagging soft hairy stems and veined dark green leaves spotted purplish green. The flowers appear in early autumn as upward facing star shaped pinkish-purple or pinkish-white flowers of about 1in across. They are heavily spotted with reddish purple and white spotted stigmas.



*Tricyrtis formosana*



*Tricyrtis formosana*



*Tricyrtis formosana*

*T. hirta* also has densely hairy stems and hairy pale green leaves. Funnel shaped purple spotted white flowers with purple stigmas appear in late summer or autumn either singly or in clusters.



*Tricyrtis hirta*



*Tricyrtis hirta*



*Tricyrtis hirta*



*Tricyrtis hirta*



*Tricyrtis hirta* 'Taiwan Adbane'



*Tricyrtis hirta* 'Taiwan Adbane'



*Tricyrtis hirta* 'Taiwan  
Adbane'



*Tricyrtis latifolia* 'Yellow  
Sunrise'



*Tricyrtis latifolia* 'Yellow  
Sunrise'

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