Thorn Apple

Datura inoxia

Height: 24 inches

Spread: 5 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 8

Other Names: Devil's Trumpet, Moonflower, Pricklyburr

Description:

A low lying, short lived perennial with beautiful large trumpet shaped lavender-white flowers, that will spread over a large area; remove unripe fruits to extend blooming; all parts of this plant are highly poisonous

Ornamental Features

Thorn Apple features showy fragrant white trumpet-shaped flowers with lavender overtones along the stems from early to late summer. Its attractive heart-shaped leaves remain dark green in color with distinctive creamy white veins throughout the season. The fruits are showy grayish green pods displayed from late summer to early fall.

Landscape Attributes

Thorn Apple is an herbaceous perennial with a ground-hugging habit of growth. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;



Thorn Apple flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Thorn Apple flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

- Spreading
- Spiny
- Self-Seeding

Thorn Apple is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Thorn Apple will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 5 feet. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 5 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist locations, and should do just fine under typical garden conditions. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America, and parts of it are known to be toxic to humans and animals, so care should be exercised in planting it around children and pets.

Thorn Apple is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its spreading habit of growth, it is ideally suited for use as a 'spiller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the edges where it can spill gracefully over the pot. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.