New Zealand Purple Castor Bean

Ricinus communis 'New Zealand Purple'



New Zealand Purple Castor Bean foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Spacing: 24 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 9

Other Names: Castor Oil Plant

Ornamental Features

New Zealand Purple Castor Bean's attractive enormous lobed palmate leaves remain deep purple in color throughout the year on a plant with an upright spreading habit of growth.

Landscape Attributes

New Zealand Purple Castor Bean is an herbaceous evergreen perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its wonderfully bold, coarse texture can be very effective in a balanced garden composition.

This is a high maintenance plant that will require regular care and upkeep, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. It has no significant negative characteristics.

New Zealand Purple Castor Bean is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use

Planting & Growing

New Zealand Purple Castor Bean will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 24 inches apart. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 5 years. As an evegreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selected variety of a species 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.