# Blue Broom

***Erinacea anthyllis***



*Blue Broom flowers*
*Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder*

Height: 12 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 8

Other Names: Hedgehog Broom, syn. Anthyllis erinacea

**Description:**

A dwarf, spiny evergreen sub-shrub forming a dense mound of narrow foliage with spines at the tip; pea like, violet blue flowers in small clusters bathe the plant in color in early summer; drought tolerant and long lived once established

**Ornamental Features**

Blue Broom is bathed in stunning clusters of violet pea-like flowers with blue overtones and light green calyces along the stems in early summer. Its spiny narrow leaves remain green in color throughout the year.

**Landscape Attributes**

Blue Broom is an herbaceous evergreen perennial with a ground-hugging habit of growth. It brings an extremely fine and delicate texture to the garden composition and should be used to full effect.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Blue Broom is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Container Planting

**Planting & Growing**

Blue Broom will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 30 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 prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. It is not particular as to soil type, but has a definite preference for alkaline soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division.

Blue Broom 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. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.