Wooly Butterfly Bush

Buddleia marrubiifolia

Height: 5 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 7

Description:

A striking shrub with velvety, silver-gray foliage that really showcases the eye catching orange flower clusters from spring until fall; pruning in spring will help keep it dense and promote flowering; great for the garden or containers



Wooly Butterfly Bush flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Wooly Butterfly Bush in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Wooly Butterfly Bush features showy panicles of fragrant orange flowers at the ends of the branches from mid spring to mid summer. The flowers are excellent for cutting. It has attractive silver deciduous foliage. The fuzzy oval leaves are highly ornamental but do not develop any appreciable fall color.

Landscape Attributes

Wooly Butterfly Bush is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a mounded form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting bees, butterflies and hummingbirds 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.

Wooly Butterfly Bush is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Wooly Butterfly Bush will grow to be about 5 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 5 feet. It has a low canopy, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 years.

This shrub should only be grown in full sunlight. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for xeriscaping or the moisture-conserving landscape. It is not particular as to soil type, but has a definite preference for alkaline soils. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is not originally from North America.

Wooly Butterfly Bush makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.