Carolina Petunia

Ruellia caroliniensis



Carolina Petunia flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 12 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Spacing: 18 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 7

Other Names: Wild Petunia

Description:

This native perennial is quite adaptable, tolerating full or partial sun and moist to dry conditions in any kind of soil; violet-blue flowers set against the glossy green foliage, lightly blanketing a low border front



Carolina Petunia flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Carolina Petunia features dainty violet trumpet-shaped flowers with blue overtones at the ends of the stems from early spring to late fall. Its attractive glossy narrow leaves remain dark green in color throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Carolina Petunia is an herbaceous evergreen 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 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. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Self-Seeding

Carolina Petunia is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Carolina Petunia will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 18 inches apart. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 3 years. As an evegreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. 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 a low-water garden or xeriscape application. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is native to parts of North America.

Carolina Petunia 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.