Helen Campbell Spiderflower

Cleome hassleriana 'Helen Campbell'



Helen Campbell Spiderflower flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 5 feet

Spread: 24 inches

Spacing: 16 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Spider Flower, Spider Plant

Description:

This variety is a fast growing annual that typically may rise to five feet on rigid stems; dense terminal racemes of fragrant, white spider-like flowers from early summer until frost; tolerates light shade

Ornamental Features

Helen Campbell Spiderflower features showy spikes of white spider-like flowers rising above the foliage from early summer to mid fall. Its pointy leaves remain dark green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Helen Campbell Spiderflower is an open herbaceous annual with a rigidly upright and towering form. 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 should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. It is a good choice for attracting 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.



Helen Campbell Spiderflower in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Helen Campbell Spiderflower is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Helen Campbell Spiderflower will grow to be about 5 feet 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 16 inches apart. It tends to be leggy, with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and should be underplanted with lower-growing perennials. The flower stalks can be weak and so it may require staking in exposed sites or excessively rich soils. This fast-growing annual will normally live for one full growing season, needing replacement the following year.

This plant 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 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 is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. It can be propagated by cuttings; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Helen Campbell Spiderflower is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use 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 growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.