Lilac Verbena

Verbena lilacina



Lilac Verbena in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Spacing: 3 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 8

Other Names: Cedros Island Verbena

Description:

A mounded plant with very fine, dissected foliage and clusters of fragrant lilac-pink flowers that rise up nearly year round, with its peak in spring and summer; drought tolerant, but water occasionally to keep looking lush; great for containers



Lilac Verbena flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Lilac Verbena is bathed in stunning clusters of lightly-scented lilac purple flowers with pink overtones rising above the foliage from mid spring to late summer. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive deeply cut narrow leaves remain green in color throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Lilac Verbena is an herbaceous evergreen perennial with a mounded form. 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 should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Lilac Verbena is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Lilac Verbena will grow to be about 30 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 3 feet apart. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. 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 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, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is native to parts of North America.

Lilac Verbena is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting 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 growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.