Freemont's Leather Flower

Clematis fremontii

Height: 18 inches

Spread: 12 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4

Description:

An erect stemmed perennial producing dainty, nodding, bell shaped white and purple flowers above clumping dark green leathery foliage; an excellent, low maintenance garden groundcover

Ornamental Features

Freemont's Leather Flower features dainty lightly-scented nodding purple bell-shaped flowers with white overtones at the ends of the stems from mid to late spring. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its tomentose pointy compound leaves emerge chartreuse in spring, turning dark green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Freemont's Leather Flower is an herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading 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 is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It is a good choice for attracting 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.

Freemont's Leather Flower is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Container Planting



Freemont's Leather Flower flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Freemont's Leather Flower flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Freemont's Leather Flower will grow to be about 18 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 12 inches. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is native to parts of North America.

Freemont's Leather Flower is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers against which the larger thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.