Katie Dwarf Mexican Petunia

Ruellia brittoniana 'Katie'



Katie Dwarf Mexican Petunia flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 12 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Spacing: 18 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 7

Other Names: Ruellia simplex Katie, Texas Petunia, Wild Petunia

Description:

This variety is quite adaptable, tolerating average to wet conditions in any kind of soil; abundant lavender flowers all season long; cut back stems to encourage re-blooming; does not set seed but will spread by rhizomes; beautiful when massed in borders

Ornamental Features

Katie Dwarf Mexican Petunia features showy lavender trumpet-shaped flowers at the ends of the stems from early spring to mid fall. Its attractive crinkled narrow leaves are dark green in color. The foliage often turns burgundy in fall.

Landscape Attributes

Katie Dwarf Mexican Petunia is an herbaceous evergreen 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 plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and may require the occasional pruning to look its best. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spreading

Katie Dwarf Mexican Petunia is recommended for the following landscape applications;



Katie Dwarf Mexican Petunia flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting
- Bog Gardens

Planting & Growing

Katie Dwarf Mexican 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 10 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 quite adaptable, prefering to grow in average to wet conditions, and will even tolerate some standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type or pH, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Katie Dwarf Mexican Petunia 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 and foliage 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.