Velvet Elvis Plectranthus

Plectranthus 'Velvet Elvis'



Velvet Elvis Plectranthus flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 32 inches

Spread: 30 inches

Spacing: 14 inches

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 9

Description:

Velvety, plush foliage is deep green with vibrant purple undersides; huge flower spikes of lavender purple emerge in large numbers and last very well; highly disease resistant

Ornamental Features

Velvet Elvis Plectranthus has masses of beautiful spikes of lavender tubular flowers with purple overtones rising above the foliage from late summer to mid fall, which are most effective when planted in groupings. Its serrated pointy leaves remain dark green in color with curious purple undersides throughout the season. The black stems are very colorful and add to the overall interest of the plant.

Landscape Attributes

Velvet Elvis Plectranthus is a dense herbaceous perennial with tall flower stalks held atop a low mound of foliage. 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 should not require much pruning, except when necessary, such as to remove dieback. 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.

Velvet Elvis Plectranthus is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Velvet Elvis Plectranthus will grow to be about 28 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 30 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 14 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 5 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 partial shade to full shade. Keep it well away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in 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 particular variety is an interspecific hybrid. 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.

Velvet Elvis Plectranthus 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.