Paddle Plant

Kalanchoe thyrsiflora

Plant Height: 10 inches

Flower Height: 14 inches

Spread: 10 inches

Spacing: 8 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 8

Other Names: Desert Cabbage, Dog Tongue

Description:

This variety is easily recognized by its paddle shaped leaves that are oppositely arranged and covered with a thick wax; full sun encourages red coloring; tall yellow flower stalks in late winter, when plant matures; great for containers and rock gardens

Ornamental Features

Paddle Plant features bold spikes of yellow bell-shaped flowers rising above the foliage from late winter to early spring. Its attractive succulent round leaves remain green in color with distinctive antique red edges and tinges of silver throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Paddle Plant is an herbaceous evergreen perennial with a mounded 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 is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should not require much pruning, except when necessary, such as to remove dieback. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Paddle Plant is recommended for the following landscape applications;



Paddle Plant
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Paddle Plant
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Paddle Plant flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Paddle Plant will grow to be about 10 inches tall at maturity extending to 14 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 10 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 8 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. It grows at a slow 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 very adaptable to both dry and moist locations, and should do just fine under typical garden conditions. 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 pH, but grows best in sandy soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division.

Paddle Plant 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 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.