Mt. St. Helens Coral Bells

Heuchera 'Mt. St. Helens'



Mt. St. Helens Coral Bells in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 8 inches

Flower Height: 18 inches

Spread: 12 inches

Spacing: 10 inches

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Coralbells, Alumroot

Description:

A beautiful mounded variety of low growing, medium green foliage; tall flower spikes of watermelon red rise above the foliage during the early summer months; an easy to grow choice for borders, beds and containers; flowers are suitable for cutting

Ornamental Features

Mt. St. Helens Coral Bells features dainty spikes of red bell-shaped flowers rising above the foliage from late spring to mid summer, which emerge from distinctive dark red flower buds. Its crinkled lobed leaves remain emerald green in color throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Mt. St. Helens Coral Bells is a dense herbaceous evergreen perennial with tall flower stalks held atop a low mound of foliage. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. It is a good choice for attracting hummingbirds to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Mt. St. Helens Coral Bells is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Mt. St. Helens Coral Bells will grow to be about 8 inches tall at maturity extending to 18 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 12 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 10 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. It grows at a medium 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 a location that gets morning sunlight but is shaded from the hot afternoon sun, although it will also grow in full shade. Keep it 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 to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. 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. Consider covering it with a thick layer of mulch in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid. 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.

Mt. St. Helens Coral Bells 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.