King Alfred® Flax Lily

Dianella caerulea 'John316'



King Alfred Flax Lily
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 24 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 9

Other Names: Paroo Lily, Blueberry Lily

Description:

This very dense and compact variety features rich blue-green foliage and small violet flower clusters, followed by attractive purple berries; best in light shade, but will tolerate coastal full sun; tolerates prolonged wet or dry periods

Ornamental Features

King Alfred Flax Lily is primarily grown for its highly ornamental fruit. It features an abundance of magnificent royal blue berries in mid summer. Its attractive sword-like leaves remain bluish-green in color throughout the year. It features delicate spikes of violet star-shaped flowers with gold anthers rising above the foliage from mid spring to early summer. The flowers are excellent for cutting.

Landscape Attributes

King Alfred Flax Lily is a dense 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 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 bees and butterflies to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

King Alfred Flax Lily is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

King Alfred Flax Lily will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. 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 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 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, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. 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.

King Alfred Flax Lily 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.