Ihi Portulaca

Portulaca molokiniensis

Plant Height: 8 inches

Flower Height: 12 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Spacing: 14 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 9

Other Names: Molokini Portulaca

Description:

This interesting native succulent of Hawaii forms a small shrub of upright, thick, corky stems, producing pale green, rounded leaves, arranged in rows; rising stems bear clusters of yellow flowers above the rosettes; allow to dry out after watering

Ornamental Features

Ihi Portulaca features showy clusters of yellow cup-shaped flowers at the ends of the branches from late winter to early winter. It has attractive light green deciduous foliage. The small succulent round leaves are highly ornamental but do not develop any appreciable fall color.

Landscape Attributes

Ihi Portulaca is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. It lends an extremely fine and delicate texture to the landscape composition which should be used to full effect.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and should not require much pruning, except when necessary, such as to remove dieback. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spreading

Ihi Portulaca is recommended for the following landscape applications;



Ihi Portulaca foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Ihi Portulaca
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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

Planting & Growing

Ihi Portulaca will grow to be about 8 inches tall at maturity extending to 12 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 18 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 14 inches apart. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 5 years.

This shrub should only be grown in full sunlight. 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 pH, but grows best in sandy soils, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by cuttings.

Ihi Portulaca makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. 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 grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.