Brittle Star Dyckia

Dyckia 'Brittle Star'



Brittle Star Dyckia
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 12 inches

Flower Height: 3 feet

Spread: 12 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 8

Description:

Deep purple-black spiny leaves are tinged with contrasting bright silver, that intensifies in full sun; interesting orange flowers rise in late spring, and are attractive to butterflies; requires little irrigation

Ornamental Features

Brittle Star Dyckia has spikes of orange tubular flowers rising above the foliage from mid to late spring, which are interesting on close inspection. Its attractive succulent spiny leaves remain deep purple in color with showy black variegation and tinges of silver throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Brittle Star Dyckia is an herbaceous evergreen perennial with a ground-hugging 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 should never be pruned except to remove any dieback, as it tends not to take pruning well. 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. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spiny

Brittle Star Dyckia is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Brittle Star Dyckia will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity extending to 3 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 12 inches. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. 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 growing conditions, but will not tolerate any 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 division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Brittle Star Dyckia is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its spreading habit of growth, it is ideally suited for use as a 'spiller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the edges where it can spill gracefully over the pot. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.