Summer Bird® Blue Butterfly Bush

Buddleia davidii 'Summer Bird Blue'



Summer Bird Blue Butterfly Bush flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 24 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 5

Other Names: Summer Lilac

Description:

A truly dwarf, compact selection with large, showy purple-blue flowers from early summer to fall if deadheaded; attracts butterflies; hard prune to woody framework in spring as it regrows vigorously and blooms on new wood



Summer Bird Blue Butterfly Bush in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Summer Bird Blue Butterfly Bush features showy panicles of fragrant purple flowers with blue overtones and orange eyes at the ends of the branches from early summer to mid fall. The flowers are excellent for cutting. It has bluish-green deciduous foliage. The serrated narrow leaves do not develop any appreciable fall color.

Landscape Attributes

Summer Bird Blue Butterfly Bush is an open multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting bees, butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Summer Bird Blue Butterfly Bush is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Summer Bird Blue Butterfly Bush will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. 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 20 years.

This shrub should only be grown in full sunlight. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist locations, and should do just fine under typical garden conditions. 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 highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Summer Bird Blue Butterfly Bush makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use 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 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.