Licorice Blue Hyssop

Agastache rugosa 'Licorice Blue'



Licorice Blue Hyssop flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 18 inches

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 5

Other Names: Korean Mint, Hummingbird Mint

Description:

Radiant, tall spikes of lavender-blue flowers add a lovely texture to any garden; a favorite for butterflies and hummingbirds; soothing, aromatic, licorice scented foliage for the fragrant garden

Ornamental Features

Licorice Blue Hyssop features airy spikes of lightly-scented lavender tubular flowers with blue overtones and rose calyces rising above the foliage from late spring to early fall. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive fragrant pointy leaves remain green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Licorice Blue Hyssop is an open herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

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, 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.

Licorice Blue Hyssop is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Herb Gardens
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Licorice Blue Hyssop will grow to be about 30 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 18 inches. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 6 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant 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 type, but has a definite preference for alkaline soils, 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.

Licorice Blue Hyssop 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.