Portuguese Sea Thrift

Armeria alliacea



Portuguese Sea Thrift in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 8 inches

Flower Height: 12 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5

Other Names: Thrift, Sea Pink, Plantain Thrift

Description:

This low growing plant is great in rock gardens, borders, or containers; pretty ball shaped clusters of pink flowers rise up above glossy, grassy foliage, forming a neat and attractive plant; will tolerate areas affected by salt and heat

Ornamental Features

Portuguese Sea Thrift has masses of beautiful balls of pink flowers at the ends of the stems from mid spring to mid fall, which are most effective when planted in groupings. Its small glossy grassy leaves remain forest green in color throughout the year.



Portuguese Sea Thrift flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Portuguese Sea Thrift is a dense herbaceous evergreen perennial with a ground-hugging habit of growth. It brings an extremely fine and delicate texture to the garden composition and should be used to full effect.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Portuguese Sea Thrift is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Portuguese Sea Thrift will grow to be about 8 inches tall at maturity extending to 12 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 18 inches. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. 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 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 or pH, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division.

Portuguese Sea Thrift 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.