Canary Island Spurge

Euphorbia canariensis

Height: 6 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 9

Other Names: Hercules Club

Description:

A visually striking succulent shrub featuring spiny, green vertical stems that arise from a base and form a solid clump; small reddish green flowers in mid to late spring; great for rock gardens, borders or containers; white sap is poisonous

Ornamental Features

Canary Island Spurge is primarily valued in the landscape or garden for its interestingly mounded form. It features unusual clusters of red flowers with chartreuse overtones at the ends of the branches from mid to late spring, which emerge from distinctive dark red flower buds. It has attractive grayish green evergreen foliage which emerges dark green in spring. The succulent narrow leaves are highly ornamental and remain grayish green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Canary Island Spurge is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a mounded form. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other landscape plants with finer foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and usually looks its best without pruning, although it will tolerate pruning. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;



Canary Island Spurge
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Canary Island Spurge flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

- Spiny

Canary Island Spurge is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Hedges/Screening
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



Canary Island Spurge
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Canary Island Spurge will grow to be about 6 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 6 feet. It has a low canopy, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 40 years or more.

This shrub 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 xeriscaping or the moisture-conserving landscape. 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, and parts of it are known to be toxic to humans and animals, so care should be exercised in planting it around children and pets.

Canary Island Spurge makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used 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.