Paddle Plant

Kalanchoe luciae

Plant Height: 24 inches

Flower Height: 3 feet

Spread: 24 inches

Spacing: 18 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Desert Cabbage, Dog Tongue

Description:

This variety features paddle shaped leaves that are oppositely arranged and covered with thick wax; full sun or cool weather encourages red coloring; tall yellow flower stalks in spring, when plant matures; great for containers and rock gardens

Ornamental Features

Paddle Plant features bold spikes of yellow bell-shaped flowers rising above the foliage from late winter to early spring. Its attractive succulent round leaves remain green in color with showy brick red variegation and tinges of silver throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Paddle Plant is an herbaceous annual with a mounded form. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other garden plants with finer foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should not require much pruning, except when necessary, such as to remove dieback. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Paddle Plant is recommended for the following landscape applications;



Paddle Plant foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Paddle Plant in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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



Paddle Plant
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Paddle Plant will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity extending to 3 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 24 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 18 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. Although it's not a true annual, this slow-growing plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

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 pH, but grows best in sandy soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division.

Paddle Plant is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting 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 growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.