Hay Stack Puya

Puya laxa



Hay Stack Puya
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 24 inches

Flower Height: 3 feet

Spread: 24 inches

Spacing: 20 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 8

Other Names: Haystack Puya

Description:

A tough rosette forming succulent with wispy stems bearing narrow, silvery-white, twisting leaves; tall, red spikes rise up in late spring bearing red-violet tubular flowers with deep purple interiors; an attractive accent for dry, sunny locations

Ornamental Features

Hay Stack Puya features unusual spikes of deep purple tubular flowers with rose bracts rising above the foliage from late spring to early summer. Its attractive small twisted narrow leaves remain grayish green in color with curious white undersides and tinges of silver throughout the year. The coral-pink stems are very colorful and add to the overall interest of the plant.

Landscape Attributes

Hay Stack Puya is an herbaceous evergreen 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. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spiny

Hay Stack Puya is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Hay Stack Puya 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 20 inches apart. 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 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 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.

Hay Stack Puya 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.