Betony

Stachys officinalis



Betony flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 12 inches

Flower Height: 18 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Spacing: 15 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4

Ornamental Features

Betony has masses of beautiful spikes of pink flowers rising above the foliage from early to late summer, which emerge from distinctive purple flower buds, and which are most effective when planted in groupings. Its large tomentose oval leaves remain forest green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Betony is an herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. It is a good choice for attracting bees to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spreading

Betony is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover

Planting & Growing

Betony will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity extending to 18 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 18 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 15 inches apart. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 5 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 does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to dry locations, and dislikes excessive moisture. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division.