Terracotta New Zealand Flax

Phormium 'Terracotta'

Height: 24 inches

Spread: 3 feet

Spacing: 24 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 8

Other Names: Lancer Terracotta New Zealand Flax

Description:

A colorful variety presenting large, sword-like leaves in shades of orange, rose, yellow, and light green; beautiful and eye catching as an accent in the garden or massed along borders; also a great center for a mixed container



Terracotta New Zealand Flax foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Terracotta New Zealand Flax is primarily valued in the garden for its interesting and distinctive form. Its attractive large sword-like leaves emerge light green in spring, turning rose in color with showy orange variegation and tinges of yellow the rest of the year.

Landscape Attributes

Terracotta New Zealand Flax is an open herbaceous evergreen perennial with an indistinguished habit of growth. 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 is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. 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.

Terracotta New Zealand Flax is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



Terracotta New Zealand Flax
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Terracotta New Zealand Flax will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 24 inches apart. It grows at a medium 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 to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. 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 particular variety is an interspecific hybrid. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Terracotta New Zealand Flax is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It can be used either as 'filler' or as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, depending on the height and form of the other plants used in the container planting. 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.