Lilac Gem Coast Rosemary

Westringia 'Lilac Gem'



Lilac Gem Coast Rosemary flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 7 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 8

Other Names: Coastal Rosemary

Description:

An outstanding compact selection presenting whorls of gray-green leaves with white undersides; an eruption of pale lilac flowers in spring, then sporadically all year; works well as a hedge or screening plant; can be sheared for a more formal look

Ornamental Features

Lilac Gem Coast Rosemary is bathed in stunning clusters of lilac purple orchid-like flowers with white overtones at the ends of the branches in mid spring. It has attractive grayish green foliage with white undersides. The small narrow leaves are highly ornamental and remain grayish green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Lilac Gem Coast Rosemary is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Lilac Gem Coast Rosemary is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Lilac Gem Coast Rosemary will grow to be about 7 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 5 feet. It has a low canopy, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a fast 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 to grow in average to dry locations, and dislikes excessive moisture. 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 type or pH, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid.

Lilac Gem Coast Rosemary makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use 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 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.