Kickin® Lilac Blue Aster

Symphyotrichum 'Kickin Lilac Blue'

Height: 30 inches

Spread: 30 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4

Group/Class: Kickin Series

Description:

Compact, with a full, bushy habit, featuring a profusion of lilac-blue flowers from late summer to fall; prefers cool, moist soil; water the root zone instead of from the top to reduce fungal disease; great for containers or border fronts



Kickin Lilac Blue Aster flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Kickin Lilac Blue Aster has masses of beautiful semi-double lilac purple daisy flowers with blue overtones and yellow eyes at the ends of the stems from late summer to mid fall, which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its narrow leaves remain dark green in color throughout the season.



Kickin Lilac Blue Aster flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Kickin Lilac Blue Aster is a dense herbaceous perennial with a mounded form. 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. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies 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;

- Disease

Kickin Lilac Blue Aster is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Kickin Lilac Blue Aster will grow to be about 30 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 30 inches. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 8 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 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 pH, but grows best in rich soils, and is able to handle environmental salt. 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.

Kickin Lilac Blue Aster 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.