Island Alum Root

Heuchera maxima

Plant Height: 18 inches

Flower Height: 3 feet

Spread: 30 inches

Spacing: 24 inches

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 8

Other Names: Channel Islands Coral Bells, Jill-of-the-Rocks

Description:

This native perennial features marbled, dark green foliage that tinges red in winter; tall spikes of pinkish-white flowers in spring; an excellent choice for border edging, rock gardens or containers; coastal full sun only, otherwise bright shade is best

Ornamental Features

Island Alum Root features dainty spikes of white bell-shaped flowers rising above the foliage from early spring to early summer, which emerge from distinctive rose flower buds. Its attractive crinkled lobed leaves are dark green in color. The foliage often turns brick red in fall.

Landscape Attributes

Island Alum Root is a dense herbaceous evergreen perennial with tall flower stalks held atop a low mound of foliage. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. It is a good choice for attracting hummingbirds to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Island Alum Root is recommended for the following landscape applications;



Island Alum Root flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Island Alum Root
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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

Planting & Growing

Island Alum Root will grow to be about 18 inches tall at maturity extending to 3 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 30 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 24 inches apart. 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 10 years. As an evegreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

This plant does best in a location that gets morning sunlight but is shaded from the hot afternoon sun, although it will also grow in full shade. Keep it away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. 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, 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 species is native to parts of North America. It can be propagated by division.

Island Alum Root 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. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.