Blue Bells™ Emu Bush

Eremophila hygrophana 'Blue Bells'



Blue Bells Emu Bush flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 8

Other Names: Blue Emu Bush

Description:

This erect, compact, evergreen shrub is very drought tolerant once established, great for water conservation gardens; violet-blue flowers appear nearly year-round, accenting the silvery, gray green foliage; a reliable shrub that requires little care

Ornamental Features

Blue Bells Emu Bush features showy clusters of violet tubular flowers with blue overtones and white throats at the ends of the branches from late summer to late spring. It has attractive grayish green foliage with hints of silver. The small fuzzy narrow leaves are highly ornamental and remain grayish green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Blue Bells Emu Bush is a 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 hummingbirds to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Blue Bells Emu Bush is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Blue Bells Emu Bush will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 5 feet. It has a low canopy. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 30 years.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in sandy soils, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. It can be propagated by cuttings; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Blue Bells Emu Bush 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.