Madeira Germander

Teucrium betonicum

Plant Height: 3 feet

Flower Height: 4 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 9

Other Names: Madeira Sage Germander, Hoary Germander

Description:

An easy to grow, bushy evergreen shrub, producing attractive clumps of lightly aromatic, sage green foliage; upright, elegant spikes of violet-rose blooms from mid-spring to mid-summer; a beautiful, textural plant that is drought and heat tolerant



Madeira Germander flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Madeira Germander
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Madeira Germander features showy spikes of fuchsia flowers rising above the foliage from mid spring to mid summer, which emerge from distinctive silver flower buds. The flowers are excellent for cutting. It has attractive green foliage with grayish green undersides. The fragrant heart-shaped leaves are highly ornamental and remain green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Madeira Germander is a multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a mounded form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

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 bees and butterflies 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.

Madeira Germander is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Madeira Germander will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity extending to 4 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 5 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As this plant tends to go dormant in summer, it is best interplanted with late-season bloomers to hide the dying foliage.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. This plant will benefit from an application of bonemeal and/or mycorrhizal fertilizer at the time of planting. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. 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 not originally from North America.

Madeira Germander makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used 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.