Japanese Poinsettia

Euphorbia heterophylla 'Variegata'



Japanese Poinsettia foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 9

Other Names: Mexican Fire Plant, Variegated Euphorbia

Description:

This plant has distinct variegated foliage; pointed leaves of blue-green with creamy yellow margins create a stunning backdrop for the flowers which display coral-scarlet bracts; requires consistent moisture; an outstanding garden or border accent plant

Ornamental Features

Japanese Poinsettia has masses of beautiful clusters of yellow flowers with coral-pink overtones and scarlet bracts held atop the stems from late fall to early winter, which are most effective when planted in groupings. Its attractive pointy leaves remain bluish-green in color with distinctive buttery yellow edges and tinges of grayish green throughout the year.



Japanese Poinsettia foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Japanese Poinsettia is an herbaceous evergreen perennial with a mounded form. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Japanese Poinsettia is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Japanese Poinsettia will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. 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 evegreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. This plant should be periodically fertilized throughout the active growing season with a specially-formulated acidic fertilizer. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in sandy soils. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America, and parts of it are known to be toxic to humans and animals, so care should be exercised in planting it around children and pets. 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.

Japanese Poinsettia is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting 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 growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.