Monterey Bay Lilac Hibiscus

Alyogyne huegelii 'Monterey Bay'



Monterey Bay Lilac Hibiscus flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 8 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: syn. Hibiscus huegelii

Description:

A prolific bloomer presenting large purplish-blue flowers all season, heaviest in spring; a perfect evergreen shrub for containers, borders, or as a hedge in warmer climates; an interesting summer annual in colder zones

Ornamental Features

Monterey Bay Lilac Hibiscus features bold purple cup-shaped flowers with blue overtones and white eyes along the branches from late winter to late fall. Its crinkled lobed leaves remain green in color throughout the year.



Monterey Bay Lilac Hibiscus in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Monterey Bay Lilac Hibiscus is a multi-stemmed annual with an upright spreading habit of growth. 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 only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It is a good choice for attracting bees, butterflies and 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.

Monterey Bay Lilac Hibiscus is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Monterey Bay Lilac Hibiscus will grow to be about 8 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 6 feet. Although it's not a true annual, this plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

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. This plant should not require much in the way of fertilizing once established, although it may appreciate a shot of general-purpose fertilizer from time to time early in the growing season. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in both summer and winter to conserve soil moisture and protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Monterey Bay Lilac Hibiscus 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. 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.