Giovanna's Select Senecio

Senecio stellata 'Giovanna's Select'



Giovanna's Select Senecio flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 24 inches

Flower Height: 3 feet

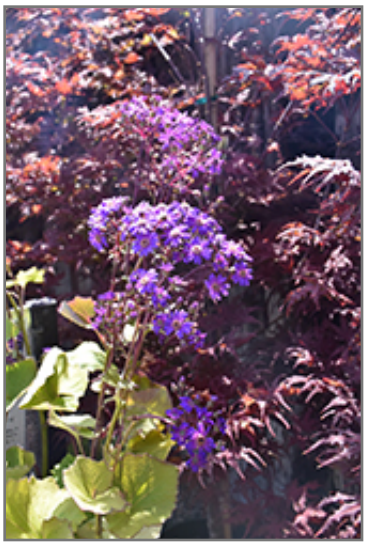
Spread: 3 feet

Spacing: 24 inches

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 9

Other Names: Tall Cineraria, syn. Pericallis cruentas x lanata



Giovanna's Select Senecio in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Description:

An attractive, well branched perennial producing rounded green leaves with small teeth; brilliant violet-purple and blue, daisy-like flowers rise above the foliage from late spring to fall; great color for shaded meadow gardens or border centers

Ornamental Features

Giovanna's Select Senecio features showy panicles of violet daisy flowers with blue overtones and gold eyes at the ends of the stems from late winter to late spring. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its serrated round leaves emerge light green in spring, turning green in color the rest of the year. The burgundy stems can be quite attractive.

Landscape Attributes

Giovanna's Select Senecio is an herbaceous evergreen perennial with tall flower stalks held atop a low mound of foliage. 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 is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. 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. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Self-Seeding

Giovanna's Select Senecio is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Giovanna's Select Senecio will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity extending to 3 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 3 feet. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 24 inches apart. It grows at a fast 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 partial shade to full shade. Keep it well 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 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 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 highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. 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.

Giovanna's Select Senecio 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.