Ernie Bryant California Lilac

Ceanothus 'Ernie Bryant'



Ernie Bryant California Lilac flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Ernie Bryant California Lilac in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 5 feet

Spread: 10 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 8

Description:

A large, dense flowering shrub with showy dark blue flowers in late winter or early spring, over dark green, glossy foliage that adds interest; perfect as a hedge, screen, or on a slope for erosion control

Ornamental Features

Ernie Bryant California Lilac features showy cymes of blue star-shaped flowers with violet overtones along the branches from late winter to early spring. It has attractive dark green evergreen foliage. The glossy oval leaves are highly ornamental and remain dark green throughout the winter. It produces burgundy berries from mid summer to early fall.

Landscape Attributes

Ernie Bryant California Lilac is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. 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. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spreading

Ernie Bryant California Lilac is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens

Planting & Growing

Ernie Bryant California Lilac will grow to be about 5 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 10 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium 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 may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. This plant does not require much in the way of fertilizing once established. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in sandy soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid.