West Country™ Desert Sun Lupine

Lupinus 'Desert Sun'



West Country Desert Sun Lupine flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 24 inches

Flower Height: 4 feet

Spread: 18 inches

Spacing: 14 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 3

Group/Class: Westcountry Lupines

Description:

A vivid, gorgeous selection, producing thick spikes of densely packed, bright yellow and cream flowers with a long blooming period; a tremendous visual impact massed in the garden, border plantings, or in containers

Ornamental Features

West Country Desert Sun Lupine features bold spikes of yellow pea-like flowers with creamy white overtones rising above the foliage from late spring to early summer, which emerge from distinctive light green flower buds. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its palmate leaves remain green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

West Country Desert Sun Lupine is an herbaceous perennial with a rigidly upright and towering form. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. 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. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Self-Seeding

West Country Desert Sun Lupine is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

West Country Desert Sun Lupine will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity extending to 4 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 18 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 14 inches apart. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 3 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

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 does not require much in the way of fertilizing once established. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in clay soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid, 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.

West Country Desert Sun Lupine 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.