Bush Monkey Flower

Diplacus aurantiacus

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight: ◐

Hardiness Zone: 8

Other Names: Sticky Monkey Flower, Mimulus aurantiacus

Description:

A very showy native sub-shrub featuring salmon orange, yellow, or orange red flowers that are similar to azalea blooms, appearing from spring to summer over dark green foliage on very sticky stems; excellent for partly shaded rock gardens or dry borders

Ornamental Features

Bush Monkey Flower features showy clusters of lightly-scented yellow trumpet-shaped flowers with orange overtones along the branches from mid spring to early summer. It has dark green evergreen foliage. The glossy narrow leaves remain dark green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Bush Monkey Flower is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a ground-hugging habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This shrub will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, 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.



Bush Monkey Flower in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Bush Monkey Flower flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Bush Monkey Flower is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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



Bush Monkey Flower flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Bush Monkey Flower will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 years. As this plant tends to go dormant in summer, it is best interplanted with late-season bloomers to hide the dying foliage.

This shrub does best in a location that gets morning sunlight but is shaded from the hot afternoon sun, although it will also grow in partial shade. Keep it 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 is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. This plant will benefit from an application of bonemeal and/or mycorrhizal fertilizer at the time of planting. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in sandy soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. This species is native to parts of North America.

Bush Monkey Flower makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its spreading habit of growth, it is ideally suited for use as a 'spiller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the edges where it can spill gracefully over the pot. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.