Purple Broom

Polygala virgata 'Portola'

Height: 6 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 9

Description:

A fast growing, upright shrub with narrow evergreen foliage; spikes of bright purple pea-like flowers appear in summer to fall; an excellent windbreak or screen; very drought tolerant once established

Ornamental Features

Purple Broom features dainty clusters of violet pea-like flowers with white overtones at the ends of the branches from mid summer to early fall. The flowers are excellent for cutting. It has bluish-green evergreen foliage which emerges chartreuse in spring. The small narrow leaves remain bluish-green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Purple Broom is a 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 can be pruned at anytime. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Purple Broom is recommended for the following landscape applications;



Purple Broom in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Purple Broom in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Purple Broom flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Purple Broom will grow to be about 6 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 5 feet. It has a low canopy, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 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 is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for xeriscaping or the moisture-conserving landscape. 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 type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Purple Broom makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use 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 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.