Matilda Mulla Mulla

Ptilotus exaltatus 'Matilda'



Matilda Mulla Mulla flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 26 inches

Spread: 16 inches

Spacing: 12 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 9

Other Names: Lambs Tails

Description:

A short lived perennial treated largely as an annual; interesting conical flower spikes of silvery hot pink persist all season long; a beautiful, fine container plant or impressive when massed in the garden; tolerant of hot and dry conditions



Matilda Mulla Mulla in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Matilda Mulla Mulla features showy spikes of hot pink flowers with silver overtones at the ends of the stems from early spring to late fall, which emerge from distinctive silver flower buds. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its twisted oval leaves remain green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Matilda Mulla Mulla is an herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. It brings an extremely fine and delicate texture to the garden composition and should be used to full effect.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and may require the occasional pruning to look its best. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Matilda Mulla Mulla is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Matilda Mulla Mulla will grow to be about 20 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 16 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 12 inches apart. It grows at a medium 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 should only be grown in full sunlight. 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 a low-water garden or xeriscape application. This plant does not require much in the way of fertilizing once established. 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.

Matilda Mulla Mulla is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. 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. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.