California Phacelia

Phacelia californica



California Phacelia flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 8 inches

Flower Height: 18 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Spacing: 18 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 6

Other Names: California Scorpion Weed, Coast Phacelia

Description:

A decumbent to erect perennial producing lush rosettes of oval blue-green leaves with prominent veins; dense, tightly coiled clusters of lavender flowers appear over an extended blooming season; very drought tolerant, perfect for rock gardens



California Phacelia flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

California Phacelia features showy cymes of lavender bell-shaped flowers with purple overtones rising above the foliage from mid spring to early summer. Its attractive tomentose oval compound leaves remain grayish green in color with distinctive dark green veins throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

California Phacelia is an herbaceous perennial with a ground-hugging habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should not require much pruning, except when necessary, such as to remove dieback. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Self-Seeding

California Phacelia is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

California Phacelia will grow to be about 8 inches tall at maturity extending to 18 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 24 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 18 inches apart. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 5 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 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 pH, but grows best in sandy soils, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is native to parts of North America..

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