Trailing Phlox

Phlox nivalis



Trailing Phlox flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 2 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Spacing: 16 inches

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Pine Phlox

Description:

An endangered species of phlox in most of North America, with lavender-pink to white flowers covering the carpet-like foliage in spring; an attractive low-growing groundcover

Ornamental Features

Trailing Phlox is smothered in stunning lightly-scented lavender star-shaped flowers with pink overtones and purple eyes at the ends of the stems from early to late spring. Its tiny needle-like leaves remain green in color throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Trailing Phlox is a dense herbaceous evergreen perennial with a ground-hugging 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 high maintenance plant that will require regular care 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 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.

Trailing Phlox is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover

Planting & Growing

Trailing Phlox will grow to be only 2 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 18 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 16 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an evegreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

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. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. Consider covering it with a thick layer of mulch in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is native to parts of North America. It can be propagated by division.