Azure Skies™ Creeping Heliotrope

Heliotropium amplexicaule 'Azure Skies'



Azure Skies Creeping Heliotrope flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 8 inches

Flower Height: 12 inches

Spread: 3 feet

Spacing: 15 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 6

Other Names: Cherry Pie Plant

Group/Class: Southern Living Collection

Description:

Low growing and fast spreading featuring beautiful green foliage and clusters of lavender colored flowers; heat and drought tolerant once established; perfect for borders, containers or used as groundcover; low maintenance and easy to grow

Ornamental Features

Azure Skies Creeping Heliotrope has masses of beautiful clusters of lavender flowers with coppery-bronze eyes at the ends of the stems from late spring to early fall, which are most effective when planted in groupings. Its narrow leaves remain green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Azure Skies Creeping Heliotrope is an herbaceous perennial with a ground-hugging habit of growth. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, 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, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Azure Skies Creeping Heliotrope is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Azure Skies Creeping Heliotrope will grow to be about 8 inches tall at maturity extending to 12 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 3 feet. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 15 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 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 does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider covering it with a thick layer of mulch in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America, and parts of it are known to be toxic to humans and animals, so care should be exercised in planting it around children and pets. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Azure Skies Creeping Heliotrope 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.