Peter Knippel Garden Centre

4590 Bank St.
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Purple Pillar Rose of Sharon

Purple Pillar® Rose of Sharon

Hibiscus syriacus 'Gandini Santiago'



Purple Pillar Rose of Sharon flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 15 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Spacing: 3 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 6a

Other Names: Shrub Althea

Description:

A narrow, columnar variety with dazzling, purple-pink, semi-double blooms with red centers, from summer into fall; very adaptable plant, but prefers full sun; an elegant choice for an entryway or privacy screen

Ornamental Features

Purple Pillar Rose of Sharon features bold semi-double purple trumpet-shaped flowers with pink overtones, creamy white throats and crimson centers along the branches from mid summer to early fall. It has green deciduous foliage. The lobed leaves do not develop any appreciable fall colour.



Purple Pillar Rose of Sharon flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Purple Pillar Rose of Sharon is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a narrowly upright and columnar growth habit. 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 high maintenance shrub that will require regular care and upkeep, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. 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. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Insects
- Disease

Purple Pillar Rose of Sharon is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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- Accent
- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Purple Pillar Rose of Sharon will grow to be about 15 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 3 feet apart. It tends to be a little leggy, with a typical clearance of 2 feet from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 40 years or more.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. To help this plant achive its best flowering performance, periodically apply a flower-boosting fertilizer from early spring through into the active growing season. 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 applying a thick mulch around the root zone over the growing season to conserve soil moisture. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Purple Pillar Rose of Sharon makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. Its large size and upright habit of growth lend it for use as a solitary accent, or in a composition surrounded by smaller plants around the base 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. Be aware that in our climate, most plants cannot be expected to survive the winter if left in containers outdoors, and this plant is no exception. Contact our experts for more information on how to protect it over the winter months.