Peter Knippel Garden Centre

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Bobblehead Ornamental Onion

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Allium 'Bobblehead'

Height: 32 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 5a

Other Names: Flowering Onion

Description:

A showy ornamental onion forming an upright clump of blue-green, glaucous leaves; a profusion of lilac-purple rounded clusters of flowers in mid-summer; impressive when massed in groupings; great as a long lasting cut flower

Ornamental Features

Bobblehead Ornamental Onion features bold balls of lightly-scented lilac purple flowers with purple overtones at the ends of the stems from mid to late summer. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive sword-like leaves remain bluish-green in colour throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Bobblehead Ornamental Onion is an open herbaceous perennial with tall flower stalks held atop a low mound of foliage. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other garden plants with finer foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, 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 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.

Bobblehead Ornamental Onion is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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



Bobblehead Ornamental Onion flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



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Planting & Growing

Bobblehead Ornamental Onion will grow to be about 30 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. 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! As this plant tends to go dormant in summer, it is best interplanted with late-season bloomers to hide the dying foliage.

This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. This plant should not require much in the way of fertilizing once established, although it may appreciate a shot of general-purpose fertilizer from time to time early in the growing season. It is not particular as to soil type or pH, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid. It can be propagated by multiplication of the underground bulbs; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Bobblehead Ornamental Onion is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. 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. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. 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.