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FARM & GARDEN

Opening Act Blush Phlox

Phlox 'Opening Act Blush'



Opening Act Blush Phlox flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 20 inches

Spread: 20 inches

Spacing: 18 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 4a

Other Names: Hybrid Garden Phlox

Group/Class: Opening Act Series

Description:

An early blooming phlox with a naturally dwarf habit; lavender-pink blushed flowers with deeper pink eyes; blooms profusely in early to mid-summer; great for borders or in containers; dark green glossy foliage is mildew and disease resistant

Ornamental Features

Opening Act Blush Phlox features showy clusters of lavender star-shaped flowers with pink overtones and hot pink eyes at the ends of the stems from early to mid summer. Its glossy narrow leaves remain dark green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Opening Act Blush Phlox is an herbaceous perennial with a mounded form. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

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 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.

Opening Act Blush Phlox is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

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Planting & Growing

Opening Act Blush Phlox will grow to be about 18 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 20 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 18 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 1 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. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. 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 cuttings; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Opening Act Blush Phlox is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. It can be used either as 'filler' or as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, depending on the height and form of the other plants used in the container planting. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.