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FARM & GARDEN

Guardian Early Blue Larkspur

Delphinium 'Guardian Early Blue'



Guardian Early Blue Larkspur flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 24 inches

Flower Height: 4 feet

Spread: 24 inches

Spacing: 18 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 2a

Group/Class: Guardian Mix Series

Description:

Magnificent display of double blue flowers on towering spikes, beautifully tinged with violet markings and constrasting white eye; good vertical form, dense flower spikes; blooms 2 weeks earlier than Guardian Blue

Ornamental Features

Guardian Early Blue Larkspur features bold spikes of double blue flowers with violet overtones and white eyes rising above the foliage from late spring to mid summer. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its deeply cut lobed leaves remain dark green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Guardian Early Blue Larkspur is an herbaceous perennial with a rigidly upright and towering 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 be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. It is a good choice for attracting bees, butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Insects
- Disease

Guardian Early Blue Larkspur is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Vertical Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

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Planting & Growing

Guardian Early Blue Larkspur will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity extending to 4 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 24 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 18 inches apart. It tends to be leggy, with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and should be underplanted with lower-growing perennials. The flower stalks can be weak and so it may require staking in exposed sites or excessively rich soils. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 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 should only be grown in full sunlight. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid. 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.

Guardian Early Blue Larkspur 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.