



Blue Spectacle Tulip

Tulipa 'Blue Spectacle'

Plant Height: 18 inches

Flower Height: 24 inches

Spread: 8 inches

Spacing: 4 inches

Sunlight: ☐ ☒

Hardiness Zone: 3a

Other Names: Blue Spectacle Peony Tulip

Description:

A beautiful late spring bloomer perfect for garden beds, borders and cutting gardens; tall, sturdy stems are topped with doubled, peony-like blooms in rich violet-purple with a blue overtone; easy to grow and low maintenance

Ornamental Features

Blue Spectacle Tulip has masses of beautiful violet cup-shaped flowers with purple overtones and a blue flare at the ends of the stems from mid to late spring, which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its sword-like leaves remain green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Blue Spectacle Tulip is an herbaceous perennial with tall flower stalks held atop a low mound of foliage. 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 is a relatively low maintenance plant, and usually looks its best without pruning, although it will tolerate pruning. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Blue Spectacle Tulip is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



*Blue Spectacle Tulip flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder*

Planting & Growing

Blue Spectacle Tulip will grow to be about 18 inches tall at maturity extending to 24 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 8 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 4 inches apart. 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! As this plant tends to go dormant in summer, it is best interplanted with late-season bloomers to hide the dying foliage.

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. 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. 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.

Blue Spectacle Tulip 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. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.