Appalachian Blues Skullcap

Scutellaria 'Appalachian Blues'



Appalachian Blues Skullcap flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



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Plant Height: 16 inches

Flower Height: 24 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Spacing: 18 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 4a

Description:

A beautiful, long blooming selection, presenting graceful spikes of violet-blue and white flowers from late spring into summer; spectacular when in mass bloom; lovely in the garden, or along low borders or walkways

Ornamental Features

Appalachian Blues Skullcap has masses of beautiful spikes of violet pea-like flowers with blue overtones rising above the foliage from late spring to early summer, which are most effective when planted in groupings. Its serrated pointy leaves remain green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Appalachian Blues Skullcap is an herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. 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 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;

- Spreading

Appalachian Blues Skullcap is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Appalachian Blues Skullcap will grow to be about 16 inches tall at maturity extending to 24 inches 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. 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 4 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 performs well in both full sun and full shade. However, you may want to keep it away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. 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 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.

Appalachian Blues Skullcap 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.