



Purple Heart Spider Lily

Tradescantia pallida 'Purple Heart'

Height: 10 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Spacing: 18 inches

Sunlight: ☐ ☒

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: *Tradescantia pallida purpurea*

Description:

This variety is excellent as a groundcover in a sunny area, and is grown primarily for its colorful purple-pink foliage; its trailing form also works with hanging baskets, or draped from garden walls; great easy care indoor plant as well

Ornamental Features

Purple Heart Spider Lily's attractive pointy leaves remain purple in color throughout the season on a plant with a trailing habit of growth.

Landscape Attributes

Purple Heart Spider Lily is an herbaceous annual with a trailing habit of growth, eventually spilling over the edges of hanging baskets and containers. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. 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.

Purple Heart Spider Lily is recommended for the following landscape applications;



Purple Heart Spider Lily
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Purple Heart Spider Lily foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder





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Planting & Growing

Purple Heart Spider Lily will grow to be about 10 inches tall at maturity, 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 low and dense right to the ground. Although it's not a true annual, this fast-growing plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat. 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 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 highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. Consider covering it with a thick layer of mulch in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. 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.

Purple Heart Spider Lily is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. Because of its trailing habit of growth, it is ideally suited for use as a 'spiller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the edges where it can spill gracefully over the pot. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.

