



Lobster Flower

Plectranthus neochilus

Plant Height: 8 inches

Flower Height: 14 inches

Spread: 3 feet

Spacing: 30 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: syn. Plectranthus Lois Woodhull

Description:

Attractive spikes of purple and blue flowers rise above a ground-hugging, spreading mat of rounded, scalloped gray-green foliage; blooms for most of the year in warm climates; a lovely addition to the garden, containers, or hanging baskets; heat tolerant

Ornamental Features

Lobster Flower features showy spikes of purple flowers with sky blue overtones rising above the foliage from mid winter to late fall. Its attractive small serrated round leaves remain grayish green in color throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Lobster Flower is an herbaceous annual with a ground-hugging habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and can be pruned at anytime. It is a good choice for attracting bees and 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.

Lobster Flower is recommended for the following landscape applications;



Lobster Flower flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Lobster Flower in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



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

Planting & Growing

Lobster Flower will grow to be about 8 inches tall at maturity extending to 14 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 3 feet. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 30 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. Although it's not a true annual, this 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.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America.

Lobster Flower 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 spreading 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.