Lindley's
Nursery and
Garden Center

Coral Porterweed

Stachytarpheta mutabilis



Coral Porterweed flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 12 inches

Flower Height: 24 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Spacing: 14 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 9b

Other Names: Red Snakeweed, Pink Snakeweed, False Vervain

Description:

A low growing perennial or sub-shrub, presenting spikes of dainty coral red to pink flowers appearing in spring to fall, above green glossy foliage; an excellent addition to butterfly gardens, attracting many species; use as an informal low hedge

Ornamental Features

Coral Porterweed features dainty spikes of red trumpet-shaped flowers with pink overtones and white throats rising above the foliage from early winter to late fall. Its serrated oval leaves remain green in color throughout the year.



Coral Porterweed foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Coral Porterweed is an herbaceous evergreen perennial with a mounded form. 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 is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. 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
- Self-Seeding

Coral Porterweed is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Coral Porterweed will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity extending to 24 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 18 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 14 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 5 years. As an evegreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

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 considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. To help this plant achive its best flowering performance, periodically apply a flower-boosting fertilizer from early spring through into the active growing season. It is not particular as to soil type or pH, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by cuttings.

Coral Porterweed is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It can be used either as 'filler' or as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, depending on the height and form of the other plants used in the container planting. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.