Early Start™ Velvet Garden Phlox

Phlox paniculata 'Early Start Velvet'



Early Start Velvet Garden Phlox flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 16 inches

Spread: 12 inches

Spacing: 10 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Summer Phlox

Group/Class: Early Start Series

Description:

An early starting variety producing blooms of fragrant violet cast flowers with darker centres, on compact plants suitable for containers or small perennial borders; good mildew resistance

Ornamental Features

Early Start Velvet Garden Phlox features bold fragrant conical violet star-shaped flowers with purple eyes at the ends of the stems from mid spring to mid summer. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its narrow leaves remain emerald green in colour throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Early Start Velvet Garden Phlox is a dense 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 butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Disease

Early Start Velvet Garden Phlox is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Early Start Velvet Garden Phlox will grow to be about 14 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 12 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 10 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!

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. 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 is a selection of a native North American species. 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.

Early Start Velvet Garden Phlox is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers against which the larger thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden. Be aware that in our climate, most plants cannot be expected to survive the winter if left in containers outdoors, and this plant is no exception. Contact our experts for more information on how to protect it over the winter months.