Purple Broom

Polygala virgata 'Portola'

Height: 6 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 9

Description:

A fast growing, upright shrub with narrow evergreen foliage; spikes of bright purple pea-like flowers appear in summer to fall; an excellent windbreak or screen; very drought tolerant once established

Ornamental Features

Purple Broom features dainty clusters of violet pea-like flowers with white overtones at the ends of the branches from mid summer to early fall. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its small narrow leaves emerge chartreuse in spring, turning bluish-green in colour the rest of the year.

Landscape Attributes

Purple Broom is a multi-stemmed evergreen 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 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. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Purple Broom is recommended for the following landscape applications;



Purple Broom in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Purple Broom in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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- Accent
- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



Purple Broom flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Purple Broom will grow to be about 6 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 5 feet. Although it is technically a woody plant, this fast-growing plant can be expected to behave as a perennial in our climate if planted outdoors over the winter, usually regrowing from its base (crown) 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 prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. 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 is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Purple Broom 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. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. 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.

This plant is not reliably hardy in our region, and certain restrictions may apply; contact the store for more information.