Hoary Vervain

Verbena stricta

Plant Height: 24 inches

Flower Height: 4 feet

Spread: 24 inches

Spacing: 18 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Hoary Verbena

Description:

A vigorous, clump forming perennial, producing volumes of blue-purple flowers on narrow, pencil-like terminal panicles; stems and gray-green leaves are covered with white pubescence; a bright color accent in the garden or containers



Hoary Vervain flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Hoary Vervain in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Hoary Vervain has masses of beautiful spikes of blue flowers with purple overtones rising above the foliage from mid spring to early fall, which are most effective when planted in groupings. Its tomentose oval leaves remain grayish green in colour throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Hoary Vervain is a dense herbaceous perennial with tall flower stalks held atop a low mound of foliage. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

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;

- Spreading
- Self-Seeding

Hoary Vervain is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Hoary Vervain will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity extending to 4 feet tall with the flowers, 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 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 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!



Hoary Vervain flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist locations, and should do just fine under typical garden conditions. This plant does not require much in the way of fertilizing once established. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is native to parts of North America. It can be propagated by division.

Hoary Vervain 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.