Sticky Waxweed

Cuphea glutinosa



Sticky Waxweed flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 15 inches

Spread: 15 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Lavender Lady

Description:

Small, freely branching shrub or subshrub with unusual violet tubular flowers that open to a star shape displaying purple stripes; grown as an annual in cooler climates; rarely available, and largely eclipsed by showier hybrids

Ornamental Features

Sticky Waxweed's pointy leaves remain dark green in colour throughout the year on a plant with a spreading habit of growth.

Landscape Attributes

Sticky Waxweed is a multi-stemmed annual with a ground-hugging 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 is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Sticky Waxweed is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Sticky Waxweed will grow to be about 15 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 15 inches. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. 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 does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. 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 not originally from North America.

Sticky Waxweed is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. 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.