Snavely's GARDEN CORNER

Over 50 YEARS OF SERVICE
And expert advice!

Cherry Blood Leaf

Iresine herbstii 'Cherry'



Cherry Blood Leaf flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 30 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Spacing: 18 inches

Sunlight: ◐

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Bloodleaf, Beefsteak Plant, Chicken Gizzard

Description:

A stunning variety with deep red glossy foliage and a vigorous, upright growth habit; quite impressive when massed in the garden or displayed in containers

Ornamental Features

Cherry Blood Leaf's attractive glossy pointy leaves remain dark red in color with pointy hot pink spines throughout the year on a plant with an upright spreading habit of growth. The burgundy stems are very colorful and add to the overall interest of the plant.

Landscape Attributes

Cherry Blood Leaf is an herbaceous annual 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. The flowers of this plant may actually detract from its ornamental features, so they can be removed as they appear. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Cherry Blood Leaf is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Cherry Blood Leaf will grow to be about 30 inches tall at maturity, 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. Although it's not a true annual, this fast-growing 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 should be grown in a location with partial shade or which is shaded from the hot afternoon sun. It prefers to grow in moist to wet soil, and will even tolerate some 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. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone over the growing season to conserve soil moisture. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. It can be propagated by cuttings; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Cherry Blood Leaf is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. 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.