Snavely's GARDEN CORNER

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Meteor Shower Verbena

Verbena bonariensis 'Meteor Shower'



Meteor Shower Verbena flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 30 inches

Spread: 12 inches

Spacing: 8 inches

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Brazilian Verbena, Vervain

Description:

An airy, tall variety with a long bloom period; pinkish-purple buds that open to lilac flowers, that will eventually mature to nearly white; a great plant for borders or containers

Ornamental Features

Meteor Shower Verbena features airy clusters of lilac purple flowers with violet overtones at the ends of the stems from late spring to mid fall. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its narrow leaves remain green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Meteor Shower Verbena is an open herbaceous annual with an upright spreading habit of growth. It brings an extremely fine and delicate texture to the garden composition and should be used to full effect.

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 to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Disease
- Self-Seeding

Meteor Shower Verbena is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Meteor Shower Verbena will grow to be about 24 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 8 inches apart. It tends to be leggy, with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and should be underplanted with lower-growing perennials. 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 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. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Meteor Shower Verbena 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. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.