East Bay Nursery

Lindheimer's Muhly

Muhlenbergia lindheimeri



Lindheimer's Muhly
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 3 feet

Flower Height: 6 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 5b

Other Names: Big Muhly

Description:

A tall mounding grass with blue-green semi-evergreen foliage, airy plumes of purple flowers give way to a dazzling late autumn effect of silvery gray seed pods; breathtaking planted in masses; great for screening



Lindheimer's Muhly in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Lindheimer's Muhly is draped in stunning plumes of purple flowers rising above the foliage from late summer to early fall. The silver seed heads are carried on showy plumes displayed in abundance from early to late fall. Its grassy leaves remain bluish-green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Lindheimer's Muhly is a dense herbaceous perennial grass with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. 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.

Lindheimer's Muhly is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Lindheimer's Muhly will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity extending to 6 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 3 feet. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 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!

This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. 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. It is particular about its soil conditions, with a strong preference for poor, acidic soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is native to parts of North America. It can be propagated by division.

Lindheimer's Muhly 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.