East Bay Nursery

Rainbow Chief New Zealand Flax

Phormium 'Rainbow Chief'



Rainbow Chief New Zealand Flax
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 5 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Spacing: 5 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 8a

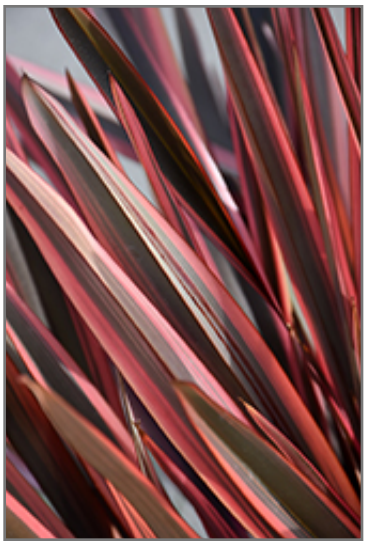
Other Names: Maori Chief New Zealand Flax

Description:

A stunning perennial that has bronze-green, sword-like leaves with bright pink and red margins; beautiful and eye catching as an accent in the garden or massed along borders; also a great center for a mixed container; foliage is great for cut arrangements

Ornamental Features

Rainbow Chief New Zealand Flax is primarily valued in the landscape or garden for its cascading habit of growth. Its attractive large sword-like leaves emerge grayish green in spring, turning coppery-bronze in color with distinctive red edges and tinges of pink the rest of the year.



Rainbow Chief New Zealand Flax foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Rainbow Chief New Zealand Flax is an open herbaceous evergreen perennial with a shapely form and gracefully arching foliage. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other garden plants with finer 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.

Rainbow Chief New Zealand Flax is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Rainbow Chief New Zealand Flax will grow to be about 5 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 6 feet. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 5 feet apart. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an evegreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Rainbow Chief New Zealand Flax is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used 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.