Midnight Beard Tongue

Penstemon 'Midnight'

Height: 30 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Spacing: 16 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 7a

Other Names: Beardtongue

Description:

An impressive penstemon producing large, bluish-purple flowers with white throats striped in purple, rising above rich, deep green foliage; makes a beautiful visual impact when massed in the garden, along walkways, or in borders



Midnight Beard Tongue flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Midnight Beard Tongue has masses of beautiful spikes of purple tubular flowers with lavender overtones, white throats and deep purple stripes rising above the foliage from early summer to early fall, which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive glossy narrow leaves remain dark green in color throughout the year. The dark red stems can be quite attractive.



Midnight Beard Tongue flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Midnight Beard Tongue is an herbaceous evergreen perennial 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. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Midnight Beard Tongue is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Midnight Beard Tongue will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 18 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 16 inches apart. It grows at a fast 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 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 not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. 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.

Midnight Beard Tongue 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.