PlantWorld

Showy Cranesbill

Geranium magnificum



Showy Cranesbill flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 18 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Spacing: 20 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 2a

Description:

Vigorous dense mounds of deep green foliage turn a stunning red in the fall; green foliage is a beautiful backdrop for stunning rich, violet-blue saucer-shaped flowers during the early summer months; low maintenance and drought tolerant once established

Ornamental Features

Showy Cranesbill has masses of beautiful violet flowers with purple veins at the ends of the stems from late spring to mid summer, which are most effective when planted in groupings. Its deeply cut lobed palmate leaves are dark green in colour. As an added bonus, the foliage turns a gorgeous dark red in the fall.



Showy Cranesbill flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Showy Cranesbill is an herbaceous perennial with a mounded form. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies 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.

Showy Cranesbill is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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



Showy Cranesbill in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Showy Cranesbill will grow to be about 18 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 20 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a medium 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 does best in full sun to partial shade. 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. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division.

Showy Cranesbill is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers against which the thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.