Red Stemmed Thalia

Thalia geniculata 'Ruminoides'

Height: 7 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 6

Other Names: Alligator Flag, Hardy Water Canna, Fire Flag

Description:

This evergreen, marginal aquatic plant forms a clump of long-stalked blue-green and chartreuse leaves, on dark red stems; produces slender stems with small clusters of purple flowers in summer; great for rich, wet soils, or on a pond perimeter

Ornamental Features

Red Stemmed Thalia features dainty spikes of violet flag-like flowers at the ends of the stems in mid summer, which emerge from distinctive deep purple flower buds. Its attractive large oval leaves remain bluish-green in color with distinctive chartreuse veins throughout the year. The dark red stems are very colorful and add to the overall interest of the plant.

Landscape Attributes

Red Stemmed Thalia is an herbaceous evergreen perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its wonderfully bold, coarse texture can be very effective in a balanced garden composition.

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 bees and butterflies to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Red Stemmed Thalia is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Water Gardens
- Bog Gardens



Red Stemmed Thalia foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Red Stemmed Thalia
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Planting & Growing

Red Stemmed Thalia will grow to be about 6 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 6 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground. 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 should only be grown in full sunlight. It prefers to grow in moist to wet soil, and will even tolerate some standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selection of a native North American species. 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.