Blue Porterweed

Stachytarpheta jamaicensis

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 9

Other Names: Light-blue Snakeweed, Beach Vitex, Jamaica Vervain

Description:

A low growing evergreen perennial presenting spikes of lavender to purple flowers, appearing on and off all year above rich, dark green glossy foliage; an excellent addition to butterfly gardens, attracting many species; use as an informal low hedge



Blue Porterweed in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Blue Porterweed features dainty spikes of lavender trumpet-shaped flowers with royal blue overtones and white throats rising above the foliage from early winter to late fall. Its serrated pointy leaves remain dark green in color throughout the year.



Blue Porterweed flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Blue Porterweed is an herbaceous evergreen perennial with a mounded form. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

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 bees, butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spreading
- Self-Seeding

Blue Porterweed is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Blue Porterweed will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 5 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 is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. To help this plant achive its best flowering performance, periodically apply a flower-boosting fertilizer from early spring through into the active growing season. It is not particular as to soil type or pH, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is native to parts of North America. It can be propagated by cuttings.

Blue Porterweed 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.