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French Lavender

Lavandula dentata

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Fringed Lavender, Toothed Lavender

Description:

This beautiful and aromatic flowering shrub is covered with purple flowers through summer; scent is more delicate than the species; excellent choice for low informal hedging and in borders and formal gardens



French Lavender flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

French Lavender has masses of beautiful spikes of fragrant purple flowers rising above the foliage from early to late summer, which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive fragrant needle-like leaves are grayish green in color with showy silver variegation. The foliage often turns coppery-bronze in fall.



French Lavender foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

French Lavender is a dense multi-stemmed annual with a mounded form. It brings an extremely fine and delicate texture to the garden composition and should be used to full effect.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and can be pruned at anytime. It is a good choice for attracting bees and 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.

French Lavender is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



French Lavender
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

French Lavender will grow to be about 32 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. Although it's not a true annual, this slow-growing plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. 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, but has a definite preference for alkaline soils, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is not originally from North America.

French Lavender 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.