Cupcake Carrot Portulaca

Portulaca grandiflora 'Cupcake Carrot'

Height: 8 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Spacing: 14 inches

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Moss Rose, Purslane

Group/Class: Cupcake Series



Cupcake Carrot Portulaca flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Cupcake Carrot Portulaca flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Cupcake Carrot Portulaca features showy orange cup-shaped flowers with red overtones and yellow eyes at the ends of the stems from late spring to early fall. Its small succulent oval leaves remain green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Cupcake Carrot Portulaca is an herbaceous annual with a ground-hugging habit of growth. 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 should not require much pruning, except when necessary, such as to remove dieback. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Cupcake Carrot Portulaca is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Container Planting
- Hanging Baskets

Planting & Growing

Cupcake Carrot Portulaca will grow to be about 8 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 14 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. This fast-growing annual will normally live for one full growing season, needing replacement the following year.

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 pH, but grows best in poor soils, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. It can be propagated by cuttings; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Cupcake Carrot Portulaca is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. Because of its spreading habit of growth, it is ideally suited for use as a 'spiller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the edges where it can spill gracefully over the pot. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.