Sweet Pea Shrub

Polygala x dalmaisiana



Sweet Pea Shrub in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 5 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 8b

Other Names: Polygala myrtifolia var. dalmaisiana

Description:

A pretty upward growing shrub with evergreen foliage; vivid purple winged flowers with a whitish crest on and off through the year with a peak flush in spring; an excellent windbreak or screen; very drought tolerant once established



Sweet Pea Shrub flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Sweet Pea Shrub features dainty clusters of fuchsia pea-like flowers with white overtones at the ends of the branches from early winter to late fall. The flowers are excellent for cutting. It has green evergreen foliage. The oval leaves remain green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Sweet Pea Shrub is a multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and can be pruned at anytime. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Sweet Pea Shrub is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Sweet Pea Shrub will grow to be about 5 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 5 feet. It has a low canopy, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 years.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. 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 xeriscaping or the moisture-conserving landscape. 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 particular variety is an interspecific hybrid.

Sweet Pea Shrub makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use 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 grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.