



**Water Bluebell**  
*Ruellia squarrosa*

Height: 10 inches  
Spread: 12 inches  
Spacing: 12 inches  
Sunlight: ☉ ●  
Hardiness Zone: 7b

Other Names: Blue Shade, Creeping Ruellia

**Description:**

An adaptable aquatic variety, thriving in moist to wet conditions in any kind of soil; abundant violet flowers all season long; deadhead to encourage re-blooming; a pretty water or pondside plant; will spread by seed and rhizomes

**Ornamental Features**

Water Bluebell features dainty violet trumpet-shaped flowers at the ends of the stems from late winter to mid fall. Its tomentose narrow leaves remain green in color throughout the year.

**Landscape Attributes**

Water Bluebell is an herbaceous evergreen perennial with a low habit of growth, spreading atop the surface of the water. 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 plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep. Trim off the flower heads after they fade and die to encourage more blooms late into the season. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spreading
- Invasive

Water Bluebell is ideally suited for growing in a pond, water garden or patio water container, and is recommended for the following landscape applications;



*Water Bluebell flowers*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



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

### **Planting & Growing**

Water Bluebell will grow to be about 10 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 12 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 12 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the water. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an evergreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. As an aquatic plant, it requires a suitable water garden environment and will benefit from special planting and ongoing care practices; consult one of our in-store experts for further details and instructions. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. Consider covering it with a thick layer of mulch in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division.

Water Bluebell is a fine choice for the water garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. 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 grown in outdoor pots and containers, aquatic plants like this one will require a special growing environment that meets their requirement for consistent moisture.