# Forked Bluecurls

***Trichostema dichotomum***



*Forked Bluecurls foliage*
*Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder*

Plant Height: 24 inches

Flower Height: 3 feet

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Blue Curls, Common Blue-curls

**Description:**

A herbaceous to woody annual, featuring distinctive bluish-purple blooms with gracefully curved stamens and white lower lips with purple spots; long flowering season; an outstanding addition to home landscapes; readily self-seeds for the next season

**Ornamental Features**

Forked Bluecurls features delicate panicles of royal blue orchid-like flowers with white overtones and purple spots at the ends of the stems from late summer to late fall. Its narrow leaves remain green in color throughout the season. The dark red stems can be quite attractive.

**Landscape Attributes**

Forked Bluecurls is an herbaceous annual with an upright spreading habit of growth. 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 and butterflies to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Self-Seeding

Forked Bluecurls is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

## Planting & Growing

Forked Bluecurls will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity extending to 3 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 24 inches. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. This fast-growing annual will normally live for one full growing season, needing replacement the following year. However, this species tends to self-seed and may thereby endure for years in the garden if allowed.

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 pH, but grows best in sandy soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is native to parts of North America..

Forked Bluecurls is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting 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 growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.