Sticky Waxweed

Cuphea glutinosa



Sticky Waxweed flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 15 inches

Spread: 15 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 8b

Other Names: Lavender Lady

Description:

Small, freely branching shrub or subshrub with unusual violet tubular flowers that open to a star shape displaying purple stripes; grown as an annual in cooler climates; rarely available, and largely eclipsed by showier hybrids

Ornamental Features

Sticky Waxweed has dark green evergreen foliage on a plant with a spreading habit of growth. The pointy leaves remain dark green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Sticky Waxweed is a multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a ground-hugging 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 is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Sticky Waxweed is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Sticky Waxweed will grow to be about 15 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 15 inches. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is not originally from North America.

Sticky Waxweed makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use 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 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.