

Wooly Butterfly Bush



Wooly Butterfly Bush

Buddleia marrubiifolia

Height: 5 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 8a

Description:

A striking shrub with velvety, silver-gray foliage that really showcases the eye catching orange flower clusters from spring until fall; pruning in spring will help keep it dense and promote flowering; great for the garden or containers

Ornamental Features

Wooly Butterfly Bush features showy panicles of fragrant orange flowers at the ends of the branches from mid spring to mid summer. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive tomentose oval leaves remain silver in colour throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Wooly Butterfly Bush is a multi-stemmed perennial with a mounded form. 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 cut back to the ground in late winter before active growth resumes. It is a good choice for attracting bees, butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Wooly Butterfly Bush is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Wooly Butterfly Bush will grow to be about 5 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 5 feet. Although it is technically a woody plant, this plant can be expected to behave as a perennial in our climate if planted outdoors over the winter, usually regrowing from its base (crown) the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.



Wooly Butterfly Bush flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Wooly Butterfly Bush in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. 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. It is not particular as to soil type, but has a definite preference for alkaline soils. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is not originally from North America.

Wooly Butterfly Bush is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used 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. Be aware that in our climate, most plants cannot be expected to survive the winter if left in containers outdoors, and this plant is no exception. Contact our experts for more information on how to protect it over the winter months.