

Blue Diddley Chaste Tree



Blue Diddley® Chaste Tree

Vitex agnus-castus 'SMVACBD'

Height: 5 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Sunlight: ○ ●

Hardiness Zone: 6a

Other Names: Monk's Pepper Tree

Description:

A dwarf selection with airy spikes of lovely lavender blue flowers throughout summer, distinctive green palmate leaves with gray-green undersides; can be treated like a perennial and cut back each spring; flowers on new wood and regrows vigorously

Ornamental Features

Blue Diddley Chaste Tree has panicles of lightly-scented lavender flowers with blue overtones rising above the foliage from early to late summer. Its fragrant palmate leaves remain green in colour with curious grayish green undersides throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Blue Diddley Chaste Tree is an open multi-stemmed perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best cut back to the ground in late winter before active growth resumes. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Blue Diddley Chaste Tree is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use

Planting & Growing

Blue Diddley Chaste Tree will grow to be about 5 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 5 feet. It tends to be leggy, with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and should be underplanted with lower-growing perennials. Although it is technically a woody plant, this fast-growing 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.



Blue Diddley Chaste Tree flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist locations, and should do just fine under typical garden conditions. 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 or pH, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.