

Threeleaf Lantana



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Lantana trifolia

Height: 18 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Spacing: 18 inches

Sunlight: ☉ ●

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Popcorn Lantana, Shrub Verbena

Description:

A spreading shrub producing showy cymes of lilac blooms with gold eyes, over foliage that is dark green; grows in a wide range of soils, and is very drought tolerant

Ornamental Features

Threeleaf Lantana features dainty cymes of lilac purple flowers with gold eyes at the ends of the branches from early summer to mid fall. Its serrated pointy compound leaves remain green in colour throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Threeleaf Lantana is a multi-stemmed annual with a more or less rounded 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 should not require much pruning, except when necessary, such as to remove dieback. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies 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.

Threeleaf Lantana is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting
- Hanging Baskets



Threeleaf Lantana flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Threeleaf Lantana in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Planting & Growing

Threeleaf Lantana will grow to be about 18 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 18 inches apart. Although it's not a true annual, this fast-growing plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

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. 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. This species is not originally from North America, and parts of it are known to be toxic to humans and animals, so care should be exercised in planting it around children and pets. It can be propagated by cuttings.

Threeleaf Lantana is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers against which the thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.