

Duxfield Blue Star of Madeira



Duxfield Blue Star of Madeira *Echium 'Duxfield Blue'*

Plant Height: 4 feet

Flower Height: 6 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 9a

Other Names: *Echium fastuosum* Hybrid

Description:

A rapidly growing evergreen shrub producing narrow, gray green leaves; large stalks bearing clear blue flowers with pink stamens appear in spring to early summer; adaptable and very drought tolerant once established; perfect for mild coastal climates

Ornamental Features

Duxfield Blue Star of Madeira has masses of beautiful spikes of royal blue cup-shaped flowers with hot pink overtones rising above the foliage from mid spring to early summer, which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. It has grayish green foliage with hints of silver. The narrow leaves remain grayish green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Duxfield Blue Star of Madeira is a multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a mounded form. 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 shrub will require occasional maintenance and upkeep. Trim off the flower heads after they fade and die to encourage more blooms late into the season. 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. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Self-Seeding

Duxfield Blue Star of Madeira is recommended for the following landscape applications;



Duxfield Blue Star of Madeira flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Duxfield Blue Star of Madeira
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Duxfield Blue Star of Madeira

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Duxfield Blue Star of Madeira will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity extending to 6 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 6 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 6 years.

This shrub 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 xeriscaping or the moisture-conserving landscape. It is not particular as to soil type or pH, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid, 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.

Duxfield Blue Star of Madeira makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use 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 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.

This plant is not reliably hardy in our region, and certain restrictions may apply; contact the store for more information.