

Stonegate Gardens

339 South Great R

Lincoln, MA, 01773

phone: 781-259-8884

lynne@stonegategardens.com

www.stonegategardens.com

Ballistic Cuphea



Ballistic Cuphea

Cuphea 'Ballistic'

Height: 10 inches

Spread: 15 inches

Sunlight: ☉ ●

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Description:

Small, freely branching shrub or subshrub with unusual pinkish-red and purple tubular flowers; blooms continually in mild climates grown in full sun; grown as an annual in cooler climates

Ornamental Features

Ballistic Cuphea has pink tubular flowers with red overtones and violet bracts along the branches from late spring to mid fall, which are interesting on close inspection. Its small pointy leaves remain green in color throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Ballistic Cuphea is an open multi-stemmed annual with a mounded form. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Ballistic Cuphea is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



Ballistic Cuphea flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Ballistic Cuphea in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Planting & Growing

Ballistic Cuphea will grow to be about 10 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 15 inches. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. Although it's not a true annual, this 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 does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider covering it with a thick layer of mulch in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid.

Ballistic Cuphea is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. 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.