Bronze New Zealand Flax

Phormium tenax 'Atropurpureum'



Bronze New Zealand Flax foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 6 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Spacing: 4 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 8

Description:

A stunning perennial that has large burgundy-bronze sword-like leaves that grow tall and vertical; abundant red flowers appear on tall spikes in summer on established clumps; a great center for a mixed container

Ornamental Features

Bronze New Zealand Flax features showy spikes of red tubular flowers rising above the foliage in mid summer. Its attractive large sword-like leaves remain burgundy in colour with showy coppery-bronze variegation throughout the year.



Bronze New Zealand Flax
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Bronze New Zealand Flax is an open herbaceous evergreen perennial with a more or less rounded form. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other garden plants with finer foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. 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.

Bronze New Zealand Flax is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

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Planting & Growing

Bronze New Zealand Flax will grow to be about 6 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 5 feet. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 4 feet apart. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an evegreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Bronze New Zealand Flax 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, this plant may be too tender to survive the winter if left outdoors in a container. Contact our experts for more information on how to protect it over the winter months.