Moss Phlox

Phlox douglasii



Moss Phlox flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 4 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Spacing: 16 inches

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 2

Other Names: Creeping Phlox

Description:

Compact, spreading plants with small clusters of rounded violet-blue flowers with a deeper purple color eye; very eye-catching, ideal for alpine and xeriscape applications

Ornamental Features

Moss Phlox is blanketed in stunning lightly-scented violet star-shaped flowers with deep purple eyes at the ends of the stems from early spring to early summer. Its tiny needle-like leaves remain green in colour throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Moss Phlox is a dense herbaceous evergreen perennial with a ground-hugging habit of growth. It brings an extremely fine and delicate texture to the garden composition and should be used to full effect.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It is a good choice for attracting bees 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.

Moss Phlox is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover

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Planting & Growing

Moss Phlox will grow to be only 4 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 18 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 16 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. 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 should only be grown in full sunlight. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in 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. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. Consider covering it with a thick layer of mulch in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is native to parts of North America. It can be propagated by division.