Giant Cowslip

Primula florindae



Giant Cowslip flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 12 inches

Flower Height: 3 feet

Spread: 16 inches

Spacing: 12 inches

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 3

Other Names: Nutmeg Primula

Description:

This specimen is the largest of the primroses and the latest to flower with a pleasing nutmeg scent; perfectly suited to grow in boggy conditions and other shaded areas when kept watered; great addition to a pond edge

Ornamental Features

Giant Cowslip features delicate fragrant nodding yellow trumpet-shaped flowers at the ends of the stems in early summer. Its serrated oval leaves remain green in colour throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Giant Cowslip is an herbaceous perennial with tall flower stalks held atop a low mound of foliage. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Insects

Giant Cowslip is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Giant Cowslip will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity extending to 3 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 16 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 12 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 5 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant does best in partial shade to shade. It prefers to grow in moist to wet soil, and will even tolerate some standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in both summer and winter to conserve soil moisture and protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is not originally from North America.

Giant Cowslip is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use 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. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.