



Country Borage

Plectranthus amboinicus 'Variegatus'

Height: 20 inches

Spread: 3 feet

Spacing: 24 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Cuban Oregano, Succulent Spur Flower, Spurflower

Description:

Attractive spikes of lavender flowers massed above variegated green and white foliage that is used as a culinary herb; very drought tolerant once established; quite showy in the garden, massed as groundcover, or in containers; heat tolerant

Ornamental Features

Country Borage features showy spikes of lavender flowers with blue overtones rising above the foliage from mid spring to late fall. Its attractive fragrant pointy leaves emerge chartreuse in spring, turning dark green in colour with distinctive white edges the rest of the year.

Landscape Attributes

Country Borage is an herbaceous annual 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 plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and can be pruned at anytime. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Country Borage is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Container Planting



Country Borage foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Country Borage in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Planting & Growing

Country Borage will grow to be about 16 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 24 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. Although it's not a true annual, this fast-growing 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 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 a low-water garden or xeriscape application. 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 cuttings; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Country Borage 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.