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Santa Cruz Oregano
Origanum 'Santa Cruz'

Height: 18 inches

Spread: 20 inches

Spacing: 16 inches

Sunlight: ☉

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Ornamental Oregano, Wintersweet, Marjoram

Description:

An ornamental variety that produces masses of mauve-pink flowers over a long summer to fall blooming period; excellent late season color for a rock garden or border front

Ornamental Features

Santa Cruz Oregano features showy clusters of violet trumpet-shaped flowers with pink overtones and lime green calyces at the ends of the stems from mid summer to mid fall. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its small fragrant oval leaves are forest green in color. The foliage often turns purple in fall.

Landscape Attributes

Santa Cruz Oregano is an herbaceous evergreen perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. 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. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies 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.

Santa Cruz Oregano is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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



Santa Cruz Oregano foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



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Planting & Growing

Santa Cruz Oregano will grow to be about 16 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 20 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 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 evergreen 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 somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid. 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.

Santa Cruz Oregano 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 larger 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.