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Red Dwarf New Zealand Flax

Phormium 'Red Dwarf'

Height: 30 inches

Spread: 3 feet

Spacing: 30 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: syn. Shiraz New Zealand Flax

Description:

A stunning perennial, featuring large, maroon sword-like leaves with copper highlights that grow tall and vertical; beautiful and eye catching as an accent in the garden or massed along borders; also a great center for a mixed container



*Red Dwarf New Zealand Flax foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder*

Ornamental Features

Red Dwarf New Zealand Flax is primarily valued in the garden for its ornamental globe-shaped form. Its attractive large sword-like leaves remain burgundy in color with hints of coppery-bronze throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Red Dwarf New Zealand Flax is an open herbaceous annual 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.

Red Dwarf New Zealand Flax is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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



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Planting & Growing

Red Dwarf New Zealand Flax will grow to be about 30 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 30 inches apart. Although it's not a true annual, this 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 prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. 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.

Red Dwarf New Zealand Flax is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It can be used either as 'filler' or as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, depending on the height and form of the other plants used in the container planting. 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.

Moana Lane Garden Center & Corporate Office
1100 W. Moana Lane
Reno, NV 89509
(775) 825-0600
(775) 825-0602 - Corporate Office

South Virginia St. Garden Center
11301 S. Virginia Street
Reno, NV 89511
(775) 853-1319

Pyramid Way Garden Center
3397 Pyramid Way
Sparks, NV 89431
(775) 425-4300

Landscape Services & Design Center
1190 W. Moana Lane
Reno, NV 89509
(775) 825-0602 ext. 134
NV Lic. #3379A, D & CA Lic. #317448

www.moananursery.com