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Norton Gold Oregano
Origanum 'Norton Gold'

Plant Height: 18 inches
Flower Height: 24 inches
Spread: 24 inches
Spacing: 18 inches
Sunlight: ☉
Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Norton's Gold Oregano, Wintersweet, Marjoram

Description:

An ornamental variety that produces masses of pink flowers over a long summer to fall blooming period; golden leaves persist in bright to full sun; excellent late season color for a rock garden or border front

Ornamental Features

Norton Gold Oregano features showy spikes of pink trumpet-shaped flowers at the ends of the stems from mid summer to mid fall. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its fragrant oval leaves emerge gold in spring, turning light green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Norton Gold Oregano is an herbaceous 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.

Norton Gold Oregano is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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



Norton Gold Oregano foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



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Planting & Growing

Norton Gold Oregano will grow to be about 18 inches tall at maturity extending to 24 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 24 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 18 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 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.

Norton Gold Oregano 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.

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