TED LARE
Design+Build

Maries Balloon Flower

Platycodon grandiflorus 'Mariesii'

Height: 18 inches

Spread: 12 inches

Spacing: 9 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 3a

Ornamental Features

Maries Balloon Flower has masses of beautiful spikes of violet bell-shaped flowers rising above the foliage from early to late summer, which emerge from distinctive blue flower buds, and which are most effective when planted in groupings. Its narrow leaves remain dark green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Maries Balloon Flower 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 is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Maries Balloon Flower is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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



Maries Balloon Flower flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



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Planting & Growing

Maries Balloon Flower will grow to be about 18 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 12 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 9 inches apart. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 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 full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. 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.

Maries Balloon Flower 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.

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