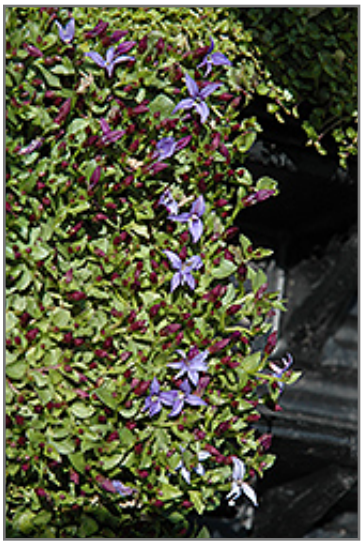
County Park Star Creeper

Pratia pedunculata 'County Park'



County Park Star Creeper flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 2 inches

Flower Height: 3 inches

Spread: 12 inches

Spacing: 10 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5b

Other Names: Matted Pratia, Swamp Isotome

Description:

A beautiful, matted groundcover with masses of sky blue flowers in late spring; good for moist boggy sites; this variety maintains a low, even form throughout the season and is an excellent planting around ponds or bog gardens

County Park Star Creeper foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

County Park Star Creeper has masses of beautiful sky blue star-shaped flowers along the stems from late spring to mid summer, which emerge from distinctive dark red flower buds, and which are most effective when planted in groupings. Its pointy leaves remain green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

County Park Star Creeper is an herbaceous perennial with a ground-hugging habit of growth. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spreading

County Park Star Creeper is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

County Park Star Creeper will grow to be only 2 inches tall at maturity extending to 3 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 12 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 10 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. 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 does best in full sun to partial shade. It is quite adaptable, prefering to grow in average to wet conditions, and will even tolerate some standing water. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America, and parts of it are known to be toxic to humans and animals, so care should be exercised in planting it around children and pets. 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.

County Park Star Creeper is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its spreading habit of growth, it is ideally suited for use as a 'spiller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the edges where it can spill gracefully over the pot. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.