# Cupid's Dart

***Catananche caerulea***



*Cupid's Dart flowers*
*Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder*

Plant Height: 18 inches

Flower Height: 24 inches

Spread: 15 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Love Plant

**Description:**

Delicate lilac-blue daisy flowers resemble a frilly dandelion head and rise above whispy gray-green foliage on this relatively short-lived perennial; good for xeriscapes and well-drained sites



*Cupid's Dart flowers*
*Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder*

**Ornamental Features**

Cupid's Dart features delicate lilac purple daisy flowers at the ends of the stems from early to late summer. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive grassy leaves remain grayish green in color throughout the season.

**Landscape Attributes**

Cupid's Dart 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 is a good choice for attracting birds, bees and butterflies to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Cupid's Dart is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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



*Cupid's Dart in bloom*
*Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder*

**Planting & Growing**

Cupid's Dart will grow to be about 18 inches tall at maturity extending to 24 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 15 inches. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 4 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 species is not originally from North America.

Cupid's Dart 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. Be aware that in our climate, most plants cannot be expected to survive the winter if left in containers outdoors, and this plant is no exception. Contact our experts for more information on how to protect it over the winter months.