Town & Country gardens

Perennial Sweet Pea

Lathyrus latifolius



Perennial Sweet Pea flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 8 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Sweetpea, Perennial Pea, Everlasting Peavine

Description:

This old-fashioned ornamental vine produces long-lasting clusters of flowers in shades of pink; not strongly scented like L.odoratus; prune before seeds form to keep under control

Ornamental Features

Perennial Sweet Pea features showy racemes of pink pea-like flowers along the stems from early summer to early fall. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its oval compound leaves remain bluish-green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Perennial Sweet Pea is an herbaceous perennial vine with a twining and trailing habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spreading

Perennial Sweet Pea is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

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Planting & Growing

Perennial Sweet Pea will grow to be about 8 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. As a climbing vine, it should either be planted near a fence, trellis or other landscape structure where it can be trained to grow upwards on it, or allowed to trail off a retaining wall or slope. It grows at a fast 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 does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. 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.

Perennial Sweet Pea 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. 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. 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.