Giant Onion

Allium giganteum



Giant Onion flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 12 inches

Flower Height: 4 feet

Spread: 12 inches

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 4a

Other Names: Flowering Onion

Description:

One of the tallest ornamental onions, this selection looks beautiful as an accent in garden beds and in fresh or dried arrangements; large globes of small, purple, star shaped flowers stand above low mounded, fragrant green foliage; low maintenance



Giant Onion in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Giant Onion features bold balls of lightly-scented purple flowers at the ends of the stems from early to mid summer. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its sword-like leaves remain green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Giant Onion is an open herbaceous perennial with tall flower stalks held atop a low mound of foliage. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other garden plants with finer foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. 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.

Giant Onion is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Vertical Accent
- General Garden Use

Planting & Growing

Giant Onion will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity extending to 4 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 12 inches. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 8 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! As this plant tends to go dormant in summer, it is best interplanted with late-season bloomers to hide the dying foliage.

This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. 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, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by multiplication of the underground bulbs.