



HOMESTEAD GARDENS

Plant FINDER

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Banana Custard Mullein *Verbascum 'Banana Custard'*

Plant Height: 24 inches

Flower Height: 5 feet

Spread: 18 inches

Spacing: 15 inches

Sunlight: ☉

Hardiness Zone: 4a

Description:

A tall graceful variety with well branched spikes of creamy yellow blooms, rising from a tight rosette of fuzzy gray-green leaves; perfect for borders or containers; deadheading encourages new blooms

Ornamental Features

Banana Custard Mullein has masses of beautiful spikes of yellow cup-shaped flowers with creamy white overtones rising above the foliage from late spring to mid summer, which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its oval leaves remain grayish green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Banana Custard Mullein is an 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 plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Self-Seeding

Banana Custard Mullein is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens



Banana Custard Mullein flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



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Planting & Growing

Banana Custard Mullein will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity extending to 5 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 18 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 15 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a fast rate, and tends to be biennial, meaning that it puts on vegetative growth the first year, flowers the second, and then dies. However, this variety tends to self-seed and will thereby endure for years in the garden if allowed, although because it is a hybrid, the seedlings may not come true to type. 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 pH, but grows best in poor soils. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid. It can be propagated by cuttings; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.