Homestead Gardens Plant Finder

Davidsonville, MD | Severna Park, MD | Smyrna, MD
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Little Adder Hyssop

Agastache rugosa 'Little Adder'



Little Adder Hyssop flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 18 inches

Spread: 22 inches

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 5a

Other Names: Korean Mint, Hummingbird Mint

Description:

Easy-to-care for perennial flowers on airy spikes add lovely texture to any garden; radiant lavender-purple color; a favorite for butterflies and hummingbirds; soothing, aromatic, licorice scented foliage for the fragrant garden

Ornamental Features

Little Adder Hyssop features airy spikes of lightly-scented lavender tubular flowers with purple calyces rising above the foliage from late spring to early fall. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive fragrant pointy leaves remain green in color throughout the season.



Little Adder Hyssop flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Little Adder Hyssop is an open 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 bees, butterflies and hummingbirds 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.

Little Adder Hyssop is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Herb Gardens
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Little Adder Hyssop will grow to be about 15 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 22 inches. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 6 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, but has a definite preference for alkaline soils, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. 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.

Little Adder Hyssop is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers and foliage against which the larger thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.