Homestead Gardens Plant Finder

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Drumstick Allium

Allium sphaerocephalon



Drumstick Allium flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 12 inches

Flower Height: 3 feet

Spread: 12 inches

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 3a

Other Names: Flowering Onion

Description:

Striking reddish-purple globe flowers emerge from thick strappy green foliage; attracts butterflies; plant close together for a massed effect or plant futher apart among lower growing plants

Ornamental Features

Drumstick Allium features bold balls of lightly-scented fuchsia flowers at the ends of the stems from late spring to early summer. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its fragrant sword-like leaves remain green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Drumstick Allium 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.

Drumstick Allium is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Vertical Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use



Drumstick Allium in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Drumstick Allium will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity extending to 3 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 5 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.