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Red Threads Alternanthera

Alternanthera ficoidea 'Red Threads'



Red Threads Alternanthera foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 8 inches

Spread: 12 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Joseph's Coat, Parrot Leaf

Description:

A densely branched, compact-mounded variety that adds a fine texture to patio containers, hanging baskets and garden beds; narrow burgundy, grass-like foliage is showcased throughout the summer months; an easy to grow and low maintenance selection

Ornamental Features

Red Threads Alternanthera's attractive grassy leaves emerge green in spring, turning red in color with hints of burgundy the rest of the year on a plant with a mounded habit of growth.

Landscape Attributes

Red Threads Alternanthera is an herbaceous annual with a mounded form. It brings an extremely fine and delicate texture to the garden composition and should be used to full effect.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and may require the occasional pruning to look its best. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Red Threads Alternanthera is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting
- Hanging Baskets

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Planting & Growing

Red Threads Alternanthera will grow to be about 8 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 12 inches. Although it's not a true annual, this fast-growing plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It requires an evenly moist well-drained soil for optimal growth, but will die in standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone over the growing season to conserve soil moisture. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. 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.

Red Threads Alternanthera is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a canvas of foliage against which the 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.

