TAGAWA gardens

Halfway To Arkansas Blue Star

Amsonia ciliata 'Halfway To Arkansas'

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5

Other Names: Blue Milkweed

Description:

Star shaped, sky blue flowers in terminal clusters appear in spring over feathery narrow foliage that forms an upright, rounded mound; beautiful fall color in tones of yellow, with purple-brown highlights; great for borders, mixed beds, or a native garden

Ornamental Features

Halfway To Arkansas Blue Star has clusters of sky blue star-shaped flowers at the ends of the stems from late spring to early summer, which are interesting on close inspection. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its narrow leaves are lime green in color. As an added bonus, the foliage turns a gorgeous harvest gold in the fall.

Landscape Attributes

Halfway To Arkansas Blue Star is a dense herbaceous perennial 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 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. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Halfway To Arkansas Blue Star is recommended for the following landscape applications;



Halfway To Arkansas Blue Star flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Halfway To Arkansas Blue Star in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Planting & Growing

Halfway To Arkansas Blue Star will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 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!



Halfway To Arkansas Blue Star in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is quite intolerant of urban pollution, therefore inner city or urban streetside plantings are best avoided. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone over the growing season to conserve soil moisture. This is a selection of a native North American species. 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.