



Baikal Skullcap *Scutellaria baicalensis*

Plant Height: 12 inches

Flower Height: 18 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Spacing: 18 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Chinese Skullcap

Description:

A beautifully flowering herbaceous groundcover with spikes of showy violet and blue flowers accented in cream; spectacular when in mass bloom; lovely in the garden, or along low borders

Ornamental Features

Baikal Skullcap features showy spikes of blue pea-like flowers with violet overtones and a creamy white beard rising above the foliage in mid summer. Its narrow leaves remain green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Baikal Skullcap is an herbaceous perennial with a ground-hugging habit of growth. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Baikal Skullcap is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



Baikal Skullcap flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Baikal Skullcap will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity extending to 18 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 24 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 18 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 under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 4 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 performs well in both full sun and full shade. 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. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America.

Baikal Skullcap is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its spreading habit of growth, it is ideally suited for use as a 'spiller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the edges where it can spill gracefully over the pot. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.