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Little Nugget Butterfly Bush

Buddleia 'Little Nugget'

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Summer Lilac

Group/Class: Humdinger Series

Description:

A compact garden plant with magenta-purple flowers that mature to purple-blue; attracts butterflies; may treat as a perennial and cut it back to the ground each spring as it regrows vigorously and blooms on new wood

Ornamental Features

Little Nugget Butterfly Bush features showy panicles of fragrant purple flowers at the ends of the branches from mid summer to early fall. The flowers are excellent for cutting. It has gold-variegated grayish green foliage which emerges buttery yellow in spring. The narrow leaves do not develop any appreciable fall color.

Landscape Attributes

Little Nugget Butterfly Bush is an open multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a more or less rounded form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. 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 Nugget Butterfly Bush is recommended for the following landscape applications;



Little Nugget Butterfly Bush flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Little Nugget Butterfly Bush in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Little Nugget Butterfly Bush in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Little Nugget Butterfly Bush will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. It tends to be a little leggy, with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 years.

This shrub should only be grown in full sunlight. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist locations, and should do just fine under typical garden conditions. 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 particular variety is an interspecific hybrid.

Little Nugget Butterfly Bush makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.