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Orchid Annie Butterfly Bush

Buddleia 'Orchid Annie'



Orchid Annie Butterfly Bush flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 30 inches

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Summer Lilac

Group/Class: Humdinger Series

Description:

A compact garden plant with showy orchid purple flowers in summer when little else blooms; 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



Orchid Annie Butterfly Bush in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Orchid Annie Butterfly Bush features showy panicles of fragrant purple flowers with lilac purple overtones and orange eyes at the ends of the branches from mid summer to early fall. The flowers are excellent for cutting. It has grayish green deciduous foliage. The narrow leaves do not develop any appreciable fall color.

Landscape Attributes

Orchid Annie 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.

Orchid Annie Butterfly Bush is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Orchid Annie Butterfly Bush will grow to be about 30 inches 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.

Orchid Annie Butterfly Bush makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. It can be used either as 'filler' or as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, depending on the height and form of the other plants used in the container planting. 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.