

CARING AND SHARING - GARDEN BENEFITS AND CARE

A sport of *Coreopsis* 'Limerock Ruby', 'Limerock Passion' has that plant's graceful habit and eye-popping flowering power. Its dark green foliage and myriad bold, lavender daisies make it a standout that nonetheless blends beautifully in the perennial border.

Bloom Season & Habit. Pinkish lavender to lavender (depending on flower maturity) daisy flowers with yellow centers on mounded, self-supporting plants. Flowers all summer and into fall, from late June into October.

Location. Full sun to partial shade. Best flowering in full sun. USDA Hardiness Zones 6 to 9, with protection. AHS Heat Zones 12 to 1.

Size. Sixteen inches high by 34 inches wide.

Culture. Requires well-drained soils for successful overwintering. A hard cutback after flowering promotes re-blooming into early fall and also helps promote basal branching, which aids overwintering. If stressed by very high temperatures or drought, a short term burn or discoloration of the petal margins can occur. As with many *Coreopsis*, flowers are largest at the beginning and end of the season (up to 1 1/4 inches), but noticeably smaller (down to 1/2 inch) in midsummer heat. Flower color varies as blooms mature, softening from lavender to lighter pink shades.

KNOWING AND GROWING - TIPS FOR PRODUCERS

Use a well-drained potting medium. Plant in August or September for overwintering outdoors or in a cool greenhouse from October to January. Liners can also be potted in February or March for spring sales, or April and May for summer or fall sales.

You may find it necessary to cut this plant back in the pot early in summer to control stretch, particularly if grown pot-to-pot. Another cutback late in the season will be beneficial to rejuvenate the plant and encourage reblooming for late summer sales.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS - HISTORY AND COMPANION PLANTS

Coreopsis is surely among the most versatile plants in cultivation. The predominant flower color of the genus is yellow or gold, but various types bloom in a range from white to pink to deep red. The common name comes from the small dark hooked seed of most types which resembles, to some eyes, a tiny black insect.

'Limerock Passion' is perfectly suited to the front of borders and patio containers. Makes a fine companion to other varieties in the genus, such as 'Crème Brûlée' or 'Sweet Dreams', and harmonizes well with bolder-colored perennials such as *Eryngium* 'Sapphire Blue'. Equally effective are pairings with spike flowers such as *Veronica*, or *Salvia* 'Indigo' and 'May Night'. Daisy-type flowers like *Leucanthemum* 'Snowcap' (Shasta Daisy) make a cheerful combination, and *Heuchera* 'Bressingham Bronze' makes a striking accent.

