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Dragon's Breath Plumed Celosia

Celosia plumosa 'Dragon's Breath'

Height: 24 inches

Spread: 16 inches

Spacing: 12 inches

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Plumed Cockscomb, Woolflower

Description:

Summer plumes of radiant scarlet red, set against the copper-burgundy foliage on a dense plant; vivid flower heads form at every node; a great container plant or massed along borders



Dragon's Breath Plumed Celosia flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Dragon's Breath Plumed Celosia features showy plumes of scarlet flowers rising above the foliage from early summer to mid fall. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its pointy leaves emerge dark red in spring, turning burgundy in color with showy coppery-bronze variegation and tinges of grayish green throughout the season.



Dragon's Breath Plumed Celosia in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Dragon's Breath Plumed Celosia is a dense herbaceous annual with an upright spreading 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 is a good choice for attracting butterflies 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.

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Dragon's Breath Plumed Celosia is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Container Planting
- Hanging Baskets

Planting & Growing

Dragon's Breath Plumed Celosia will grow to be about 20 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 16 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 12 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. This fast-growing annual will normally live for one full growing season, needing replacement the following year.



Dragon's Breath Plumed Celosia
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. 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.

Dragon's Breath Plumed Celosia is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use 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. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.