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Richardson's Prairie Alumroot

Heuchera richardsonii



Richardson's Prairie Alumroot in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 12 inches

Flower Height: 24 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Spacing: 14 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 4a

Other Names: Coral Bells, Coralbells

Description:

Airy spikes of green to cream bells rise from a compact, dense mound of cupped, ruffled green foliage, great versatility; give some afternoon shade in hot southern areas; drought tolerant

Ornamental Features

Richardson's Prairie Alumroot features showy spikes of creamy white bell-shaped flowers with green overtones rising above the foliage from late spring to early summer. Its attractive crinkled lobed leaves remain green in color throughout the year. The brick red stems can be quite attractive.



Richardson's Prairie Alumroot flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Richardson's Prairie Alumroot is a dense herbaceous evergreen perennial with tall flower stalks held atop a low mound of foliage. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. It is a good choice for attracting hummingbirds to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Richardson's Prairie Alumroot is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Richardson's Prairie Alumroot will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity extending to 24 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 18 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 14 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an evegreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

This plant performs well in both full sun and full shade. However, you may want to keep it away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. It prefers to grow in average to dry locations, and dislikes excessive moisture. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is native to parts of North America. It can be propagated by division.

Richardson's Prairie Alumroot is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. 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.