Chocolate Chip False Indigo

Baptisia 'Chocolate Chip'

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4a

Other Names: False Indigo

Description:

Extraordinary milk-chocolate and yellow spikes of pea-flowers rise from blue-green foliage in early summer; use this plant for its outstanding display of vertical flowers as an accent in the garden or borders

Ornamental Features

Chocolate Chip False Indigo has masses of beautiful spikes of dark brown pea-like flowers with yellow overtones rising above the foliage from late spring to mid summer, which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its oval leaves remain bluish-green in color throughout the season. The fruits are showy black pods displayed in late summer.

Landscape Attributes

Chocolate Chip False Indigo is an herbaceous perennial 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 is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Chocolate Chip False Indigo is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



Chocolate Chip False Indigo flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Chocolate Chip False Indigo in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing



Chocolate Chip False Indigo flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Chocolate Chip False Indigo will grow to be about 28 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. It tends to be leggy, with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and should be underplanted with lower-growing perennials. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 25 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. 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. This plant should not require much in the way of fertilizing once established, although it may appreciate a shot of general-purpose fertilizer from time to time early in the growing season. It is not particular as to soil type, but has a definite preference for alkaline soils, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Chocolate Chip False Indigo 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. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.