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Rio Grande Scarlet Portulaca
Portulaca oleracea 'Rio Grande Scarlet'

Height: 4 inches
Spread: 12 inches
Spacing: 9 inches
Sunlight: ☉

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Moss Rose, Purslane

Group/Class: Rio Grande Series

Description:

Vibrant, electric colors and large blooms on this variety; ideal for full sun baskets and containers, and perfect for hot, drier areas of the garden

Ornamental Features

Rio Grande Scarlet Portulaca features showy scarlet cup-shaped flowers with gold eyes at the ends of the stems from late spring to early fall. Its small succulent oval leaves remain green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Rio Grande Scarlet Portulaca is an herbaceous annual with a ground-hugging habit of growth. It brings an extremely fine and delicate texture to the garden composition and should be used to full effect.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should not require much pruning, except when necessary, such as to remove dieback. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Rio Grande Scarlet Portulaca is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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



Rio Grande Scarlet Portulaca flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Planting & Growing

Rio Grande Scarlet Portulaca will grow to be only 4 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 12 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 9 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. This fast-growing annual will normally live for one full growing season, needing replacement the following year.

This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in 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 pH, but grows best in poor soils, and is able to handle environmental salt. 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.

Rio Grande Scarlet Portulaca is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. Because of its spreading habit of growth, it is ideally suited for use as a 'spiller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the edges where it can spill gracefully over the pot. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.