Red Midget Mexican Hat

Ratibida columnifera 'Red Midget'

Height: 18 inches

Spread: 20 inches

Spacing: 18 inches

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 3a

Other Names: Prairie Coneflower, Long-Head Coneflower

Description:

A compact, clump forming selection producing masses of deep red daisy flowers with gold petal edges and tall cones at the center; blooms persist for a long time; ferny foliage is fine and attractive; an excellent rock garden or container plant



Red Midget Mexican Hat flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Red Midget Mexican Hat has masses of beautiful spikes of dark red daisy flowers with gold edges rising above the foliage from early summer to early fall, which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its ferny leaves remain bluish-green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Red Midget Mexican Hat is an herbaceous perennial with tall flower stalks held atop a low mound of foliage. 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 should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Red Midget Mexican Hat is recommended for the following landscape applications;



Red Midget Mexican Hat in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Red Midget Mexican Hat will grow to be about 14 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 20 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 18 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 5 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 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 type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selection of a native North American species. 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.

Red Midget Mexican Hat is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers against which the larger thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.