



Pink Bush Clover

Lespedeza thunbergii

Height: 5 feet

Spread: 10 feet

Sunlight:  

Hardiness Zone: 4a

Other Names: Pink Lespedeza

Description:

This attractive shrub is covered with deep pink pea-like flowers from summer to fall atop medium green foliage; a versatile plant for tough locations, may be grown as herbaceous perennial by cutting back to ground in early spring

Ornamental Features

Pink Bush Clover is smothered in stunning racemes of hot pink pea-like flowers at the ends of the branches from late summer to mid fall. It has attractive green deciduous foliage. The oval leaves are highly ornamental and turn an outstanding yellow in the fall.

Landscape Attributes

Pink Bush Clover is a dense multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a mounded form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Pink Bush Clover is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



Pink Bush Clover flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Planting & Growing

Pink Bush Clover will grow to be about 5 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 10 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in standing water. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in poor soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America.

Pink Bush Clover makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used 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 grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.