



**Purple Shiso Perilla**  
*Perilla frutescens 'Purple Shiso'*

Height: 3 feet  
Spread: 30 inches  
Spacing: 26 inches  
Sunlight:    
Hardiness Zone: 9b

Other Names: Beefsteak Plant, Purple Mint, Chinese Basil

**Description:**

Deep dark purple leaves with burgundy veins on a dense bushy plant; a great garden accent or landscape plant that also works well in mixed containers; edible foliage is used the same way as basil; performs well in sun or shade

**Ornamental Features**

Purple Shiso Perilla's attractive fragrant pointy leaves remain deep purple in color with distinctive burgundy veins throughout the year on a plant with an upright spreading habit of growth. It features dainty spikes of lime green tubular flowers with white overtones rising above the foliage from late summer to mid fall.

**Landscape Attributes**

Purple Shiso Perilla is an herbaceous evergreen 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. Trim off the flower heads after they fade and die to encourage more blooms late into the season. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Purple Shiso Perilla is recommended for the following landscape applications;



*Purple Shiso Perilla foliage*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



*Purple Shiso Perilla*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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## **Planting & Growing**

Purple Shiso Perilla will grow to be about 30 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 30 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 26 inches apart. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 5 years. As an evergreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone over the growing season to conserve soil moisture. 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.

Purple Shiso Perilla is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. 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.