

Plant Name: Astilbe arendsii showstar
Common Name: False Goats Beard False Spirea

Plant Type: Perennial
Colour: ranging from white to cream
Height: 30-45cm

Flowering Time: Flowers from May to Sep

Cutflower: Yes



Species Data (applies to all plants in this Plant Species)

No Species data defined for this species

Plant Data (applies to THIS plant only)

Hardy Perennial
Flowers in : Summer
Germination : Experience Useful
Aftercare : Care Required
Ideal for : Borders, Cut Flowers, Dried Flowers

Description

An attractive dwarf mixture of tightly packed upright plumes, ranging from white to cream, through pink shades to red. Very compact, bushy plants, perfect for containers or the front of borders.

Height: 30-45cm (12-18in)

Sowing Instructions

Sowing Time: February to June or September to October. Sow seed on the surface of lightly firmed, moist seed compost in pots or trays. Do not cover the seed. Keep at a temperature of between 15-20C (59-68F). After sowing, do not exclude light as this helps germination. Keep the surface of the compost moist but not waterlogged; germination can take 1-3 months.

Growing Instructions

When large enough to handle, transplant seedlings into 7.5cm (3in) pots or trays. Gradually acclimatise to outdoor conditions for 10-15 days before planting out after all risk of frost, 23-30cm (12in) apart or plant into containers for effect. For best results, provide any ordinary, well-drained soil in full sun.

Create great perennial colour for moist shady areas with astilbes. Who says you can't have perennial colour in shade? Astilbes are one of the top shade perennials for a colourful display under trees or in shady spots in the border.

These neat perennial plants make lovely foliage, and in late spring, send up plume-like flowers in a host of rich glowing colours.

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Perennial astilbes come in various heights, so plant several levels for a multicolour perennial display. Along with hostas, astilbes create permanent beds around trees, in front of shaded foundation plants, or in any other moist, shaded spots. As a bonus, they also add elegant plumes of colour in any cutflower arrangement. Enjoy!

Late spring and early summer blooming with attractive panicles of red to rose flowers (with an occasional white) on 20 inch tall plants. At home in moist shady borders, or at the edge of pools or ponds.

Description: Fluffy spikes on ferny foliage blooming in June and July. Varieties vary in size, shape, bloom color, bloom time and leaf color. The flower heads last longer if they are planted to avoid the afternoon sun. Some have green leaves, others bronze, some are shiny while others have a matte finish. A great plant for color and texture in the shade garden!

Type: Perennial

Soil Preference: This plant tolerates occasional wetness and will grow in moist soils but prefers a soil that is well-drained or loamy.

The pH preference of this plant is slightly acidic to neutral (7.0)

Light Requirements: Full Shade to Full Sun

Attributes: Attracts butterflies, cut flowers, dried flowers

Pests: Aphids, Japanese beetles, Red Spider Mites, Slugs and Snails

Diseases: Bacterial blight, Powdery Mildew, Leaf Spot and Wilt

Care: Cut back the dead foliage in spring and dead-head blooms after flowering. Propagation is from division and can be done in the fall or spring.

Fertilize with Plant-tone approximately April 1st, May 20th, July 4th, & October 30th. Or, fertilize with slow-releasing Osmocote every 3-4 months. Keep granular fertilizers off foliage and away from stems and trunks. Use 1/2 the recommended rate of fertilizer for new plantings

Astilbe is a genus of 18 species perennial, herbaceous flowering plants, within the family Saxifragaceae. Some species are commonly known as False Goat's Beard, and False Spirea. Astilbe species are native to Asia and North America.

They are cultivated by gardeners as hardy herbaceous perennials, for their large handsome, often fern-like foliage, and dense, feathery plumes of flowers. Astilbes are most widely recognized for their profuse blooms in full shade. They require a peaty soil for their successful cultivation. Numerous hybrids have been raised. Astilbe is a tall feathery flowered plant popular as a pond side feature.

Species

Species of Astilbe include:

Astilbe biternata (Vent.) Britt.

Astilbe chinensis (Maxim.) Franch. & Sav.

Astilbe crispa (Arends) Bergmans

Astilbe grandis Stapf ex E. H. Wilson

Astilbe japonica (C.Morren & Decne.) A.Gray

Astilbe longicarpa (Hayata) Hayata

Astilbe macroflora Hayata

Astilbe microphylla Knoll

Astilbe microphylla var. *riparia* Hatus.

Astilbe platyphylla H. Boiss.

Astilbe rivularis Buch.-Ham. ex D. Don

Astilbe rivularis var. angustifoliolata H. Hara
Astilbe rivularis var. myriantha (Diels) J. T. Pan
Astilbe rubra Hook. f. & Thomson
Astilbe sikokumontana Koidz.
Astilbe simplicifolia Makino
Astilbe thunbergii (Siebold & Zucc.) Miq.
Astilbe thunbergii var. congesta H. Boissieu
Astilbe thunbergii var. fujiisanensis (Nakai) Ohwi
Astilbe thunbergii var. hachijoensis (Nakai) Ohwi
Astilbe thunbergii var. kiusiana Hara
Astilbe thunbergii var. longipedicellata Hatus.
Astilbe thunbergii var. okuyamae (Hara) Ohwi
Astilbe thunbergii var. shikokiana (Nakai) Ohwi
Astilbe thunbergii var. terrestris (Nakai) Ohwi

Cultivar Groups

Commonly accepted cultivar groups are:

Astilbe Arendsii Group
Astilbe Crispa Group
Astilbe Japonica Group
Astilbe Simplicifolia Group

The fern like foliage and the showy plume flowers of False Spirea (Astilbe) make them a favourite summer flowering perennial. The flower plumes which appear in June and into July come in a variety of colours ranging from pink, white, red and purple. The most common varieties grow to a height of about a foot and a half, but there are also taller types which may reach five feet for the background, and little 6 inch dwarfs which make nice groundcovers. Even when they are not in bloom, the foliage stays attractive throughout the summer, making them very effective as a border plant, in the shade garden, or at the side of your garden pond.

Although the Astilbe is generally considered to be a partial to full shade plant, they appreciate a little morning sun. They do, however need protection from the hot afternoon sun. They should be planted 15-24 inches apart in good humus soil that is rich in organic matter, and must be kept reasonably moist at all times. Plants may be set in the garden either in the Spring or in the Autumn. Be sure to provide good drainage for these plants if your winters are wet,

Astilbes are heavy feeders and should receive periodic applications of 5-10-5 fertilizer throughout the summer. They should be divided every 3-4 years to keep them looking their best. In early spring remove the debris from the previous year, before new growth emerges.