Hydrangea, Ruby Slippers

Hydrangea quercifolia 'Ruby Slippers'

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Sunlight: ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4b

Other Names: Oak Leaf Hydrangea

Description:

A choice compact garden or massing shrub featuring showy spikes of flowers which emerge white and quickly turn deep pink; interesting deep green foliage with mahogany fall color, and papery bark; somewhat coarse in appearance, best used in groupings

Ornamental Features

Hydrangea, Ruby Slippers features bold conical hot pink flowers with white overtones at the ends of the branches from early to mid summer. The flowers are excellent for cutting. It has attractive dark green deciduous foliage. The lobed leaves are highly ornamental and turn an outstanding burgundy in the fall. The peeling brick red bark adds an interesting dimension to the landscape.

Landscape Attributes

Hydrangea, Ruby Slippers is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other landscape plants with finer foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Hydrangea, Ruby Slippers is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use



Hydrangea, Ruby Slippers in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Hydrangea, Ruby Slippers flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Planting & Growing

Hydrangea, Ruby Slippers will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 5 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 30 years.

This shrub should be grown in a location with partial shade or which is shaded from the hot afternoon sun. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. This plant should be periodically fertilized throughout the active growing season with a specially-formulated acidic fertilizer. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selection of a native North American species.



Hydrangea, Ruby Slippers in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Special Attributes

Oak Leaf Hydrangeas grow best in eastern Washington and Oregon desert if they are planted where they are shaded during the 3 pm to 6 pm hours during the summer