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Masquerade Ornamental Pepper

Capsicum annuum 'Masquerade'

Height: 12 inches

Spread: 12 inches

Sunlight: ☉

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Ornamental Chili, Chili Pepper

Group/Class: Longum Group

Description:

This variety produces dense upright clusters of very showy flame shaped fruit that emerge green, then progress to purple, yellow, orange, and finally to red when they mature; a stunning color display for hot, sunny locations



Masquerade Ornamental Pepper fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Masquerade Ornamental Pepper is primarily grown for its highly ornamental fruit. It features an abundance of magnificent purple berries with orange blush from mid summer to early fall, which fade to red over time. Its attractive pointy leaves remain dark green in color throughout the season. It features subtle white star-shaped flowers with creamy white overtones dangling from the stems from late spring to mid summer.

Landscape Attributes

Masquerade Ornamental Pepper is an herbaceous annual 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 plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should not require much pruning, except when necessary, such as to remove dieback. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Masquerade Ornamental Pepper is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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



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Planting & Growing

Masquerade Ornamental Pepper will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 12 inches. This annual will normally live for one full growing season, needing replacement the following year.

This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. 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.

Masquerade Ornamental Pepper is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers and foliage 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.