Bells Of Ireland

Moluccella laevis



Bells Of Ireland flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Spacing: 24 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Shellflower

Description:

This summertime annual produces tall stems of inconspicuous flowers that are surrounded by large, showy, bell shaped calyces; impressive in beds, borders or containers, and widely used in cut flower arrangements

Ornamental Features

Bells Of Ireland features showy white bell-shaped flowers with lime green calyces along the stems from late spring to late summer. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive serrated round leaves remain green in color with distinctive light green veins throughout the season.



Bells Of Ireland in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Bells Of Ireland 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 is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should not require much pruning, except when necessary, such as to remove dieback. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Bells Of Ireland is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Bells Of Ireland will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 24 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. This fast-growing annual will normally live for one full growing season, needing replacement the following year.

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 somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America.

Bells Of Ireland is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. 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.