Carmencita Castor Bean

Ricinus communis 'Carmencita Bright Red'



Carmencita Castor Bean in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 10 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Spacing: 3 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Castor Oil Plant

Description:

This vigorous, fast growing plant is primarily cultivated for the tropical look of its large burgundy leaves and bright red flowers; an excellent accent, border or container plant that is visually stunning

Ornamental Features

Carmencita Castor Bean features showy clusters of red pincushion flowers at the ends of the stems from early summer to early fall. Its attractive enormous lobed palmate leaves emerge red in spring, turning burgundy in color with distinctive red veins and tinges of green the rest of the year. It features abundant showy red capsules with coral-pink overtones from mid summer to early fall. The dark red stems are very colorful and add to the overall interest of the plant.

Landscape Attributes

Carmencita Castor Bean is an herbaceous annual with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its wonderfully bold, coarse texture can be very effective in a balanced garden composition.

This is a high maintenance plant that will require regular care and upkeep, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Carmencita Castor Bean is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use

Planting & Growing

Carmencita Castor Bean will grow to be about 10 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 6 feet. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 3 feet apart. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground. Although it's not a true annual, this fast-growing plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. 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. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America, and parts of it are known to be toxic to humans and animals, so care should be exercised in planting it around children and pets.