

# ALTERNANTHERA 'PURPLE KNIGHT'

## *Alternanthera* 'Purple Knight'



### Characteristics

- Type: Annual
- Zone: 9 to 11
- Height: 16-20 Inches
- Spread: 12"-36"
- Bloom Time: Summer
- Sun: Full sun to part shade
- Water: Average
- Maintenance: Easy
- Tolerates: Humidity
- Flower: White, Insignificant
- Leaf: Mottles red and purple
- Attracts: Butterflies

### Culture

*Alternanthera* 'Purple Knight' has some of the darkest foliage available in any plant species. The foliage actually gets darker and more beautiful the hotter it gets! *Alternanthera* plants reach their deepest, richest tones in full sun, but will turn an interesting burgundy-bronze in partial shade. *Alternanthera* "Purple Knight" tolerates heat well and withstands short periods of drought but performs best with weekly watering. If you have it planted in a container, water more frequently during hot, dry weather. To maintain a compact, neat look, pinch off growing tips regularly or use pruning shears to maintain a more formal appearance. Lightly fertilize plants in the ground every month or two. Fertilize container plantings every few weeks throughout the growing season. *Alternanthera* is a frost-tender perennial; it grows as an annual in all zones but U.S. Department of Agriculture hardiness zones 10 and 11. It may overwinter in cooler zones if planted in a protected, warm space or brought indoors

### Noteworthy Characteristics

This highly reliable performer requires little in the way of care, and rewards you with an eye-catching display of royal purple foliage that deepens in color under full sun. Striking leaves on long stems arch outward, lending a graceful accent to mixed containers, beds and borders. It is a tropical plant with dark purple foliage and a sprawling, vigorous growth habit. Choose a suitable site or container for this plant and provide proper care throughout the growing season to keep it looking its best. Excellent for creating contrast, this tropical perennial forms a low, branching, groundcover of deep, purple-ruby foliage. Loves heat & rich, moist soil, but suffers if not in well-drained soil. Its colorful, oppositely arranged leaves are generally linear to oval, often with toothed margins, and vary in size. 'Purple Knight' will flower under short days; the flowers are small and are formed in terminal and axillary spikes.

### Problems

No serious insect or disease problems

### Garden Uses

Borders, edger or large containers. Foliage is particularly attractive when plants are massed. Also can be an attractive houseplant.