

LOVES-LIES-BLEEDING

Amaranthus caudatus



Characteristics

- Type: Annual
- Zone: 2 to 11
- Height: 2.00 to 4.00 feet
- Spread: 1.00 to 2.00 feet
- Bloom Time: July to frost
- Bloom Description: Red
- Sun: Full sun to part shade
- Water: Medium
- Maintenance: Low
- Suggested Use: Annual
- Flower: Showy
- Tolerate: Drought

Culture

Annual. Easily grown in moist, average, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Best flowering in full sun, but appreciates some afternoon shade in hot summer climates. Known as Amaranthus, Tassel Flower and Foxtail Amaranth, Love-Lies-Bleeding is truly a unique specimen. This ancient species is native to the American Tropics, where it was known to be edible as well as beautiful. Now grown as an ornamental annual, Love Lies Bleeding can grow from 3-8 feet tall, prefers full sun and is noted for its versatile tolerance both to humid and dry conditions.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Amaranthus caudatus gets its unusual common name from its tiny blood red petal-less flowers that bloom in narrow, drooping, tassel-like, terminal and axillary panicles throughout the growing season. Panicles typically hang straight down to 12" (infrequently to 24") long. Native to India, Africa and Peru, this is an annual that usually grows 2-4' tall. Cultivars with yellow-green flowers are also available. Oval, light green leaves (to 6" long). The seeds of this species are edible, and species plants are grown as a grain crop in some parts of South America. This plant is an everlasting whose flowers retain good color when dried for arrangements. Genus name comes from the Greek word *amarantos* meaning unfading in reference to the long-lasting flowers of some species. Specific epithet means having a tail in reference to appearance of the flowers.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Watch for aphids. Root rot may occur in poorly drained soils. Susceptible viruses, aster yellows and fungal leaf spot diseases. Plants grown in the ground may need staking or other support.

Garden Uses

Best in hanging baskets where drooping flowers are best seen. May be used in beds or borders. Interesting edging along walks or paths.

Courtesy of Missouri Botanical Society Plant Finder