

OBEDIENT PLANT

Physostegia virginiana



Characteristics

- Type: Perennial
- Zone: 3 to 9
- Height: 24-30 inches
- Sun: Full sun to partial sun
- Bloom Time: Summer
- Bloom Description: Pink
- Water: Medium
- Maintenance: Medium
- Suggested Use: Naturalize, Rain Garden
- Flower: Showy, Good Cut
- Attracts: Hummingbirds
- Tolerate: Deer, Clay Soil
- Texas Native

Culture

Easily grown in average, moist, acidic, well-drained soils in full sun. Stems tend to flop in rich soils, too much shade or hot summer temperatures. Taller plants may need staking. Tolerates wet soils and some part shade.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Physostegia virginiana, commonly called obedient plan or false dragonhead, is a rhizomatous perennial. that is native to North America from Quebec to Manitoba south to Florida and New Mexico. Tubular, two-lipped, snapdragon-like lilac - purple flowers in upright terminal spikes (each to 12-18") bloom throughout summer (late June-September) atop square stems rising to 2-4' tall. Flowers bloom bottom to top on each spike, with each flower being subtended by a small leaf-like bract. Stems are clad with opposite, narrow-lanceolate, sharply-toothed leaves (to 3-6" long). Species plants are noted for being aggressive spreaders in the landscape by both rhizomes and self-seeding. Genus members are commonly called obedient plants because each individual flower will, upon being pushed in any one direction, temporarily remain in the new position as if it were hinged

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Rust is an occasional problem. Watch for aphids and spider mites. Species plants can be an aggressive spreader.

Garden Uses

Borders, cottage gardens, wild gardens, prairies or meadows.