## Astra Double Blue Balloon Flower

***Platycodon grandiflorus 'Astra Double Blue'***



*Astra Double Blue Balloon Flower flowers*
*Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder*

Height: 12 inches

Spread: 12 inches

Spacing: 9 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 3

**Description:**

Balloon-like buds swell and open in the garden to large fully double bell-shaped blue flowers with clearly defined darker veins, which seem almost too large for the stem

**Ornamental Features**

Astra Double Blue Balloon Flower has masses of beautiful blue bell-shaped flowers with white eyes and purple veins at the ends of the stems from early to late summer, which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its narrow leaves remain dark green in color throughout the season.



*Astra Double Blue Balloon Flower in bloom*
*Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder*

**Landscape Attributes**

Astra Double Blue Balloon Flower is an herbaceous perennial with a mounded form. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Astra Double Blue Balloon Flower is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

**Planting & Growing**

Astra Double Blue Balloon Flower will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 12 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 9 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Astra Double Blue Balloon Flower is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers against which the thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.