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Greenhouses & Nursery

Dusky Chief New Zealand Flax*

Phormium 'Dusky Chief'

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Spacing: 4 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 8

Description:

A stunning perennial that has large reddish-brown sword-like leaves that grow tall and vertical; beautiful and eye catching as an accent in the garden or massed along borders; also a great center for a mixed container

Ornamental Features

Dusky Chief New Zealand Flax is primarily valued in the landscape or garden for its ornamental globe-shaped form. Its attractive large sword-like leaves remain antique red in color throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Dusky Chief New Zealand Flax is an open herbaceous evergreen perennial with a more or less rounded form. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other garden plants with finer foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Dusky Chief New Zealand Flax is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Dusky Chief New Zealand Flax foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Planting & Growing

Dusky Chief New Zealand Flax will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 4 feet apart. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an evegreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

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 particular variety is an interspecific hybrid. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Dusky Chief New Zealand Flax is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.

** This is a 'special order' plant - contact store for details*