

Bachman's™

Growing Since 1885



Cardinal Flower Lobelia

Lobelia cardinalis

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 18 inches

Spacing: 20 inches

Sunlight: ☀

Hardiness Zone: 3

Ornamental Features

Cardinal Flower Lobelia features showy spikes of scarlet flowers rising above the foliage from mid summer to early fall. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its pointy leaves remain dark green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Cardinal Flower Lobelia is an herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other garden plants with finer foliage.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Self-Seeding

Cardinal Flower Lobelia is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Water Gardens
- Bog Gardens



Cardinal Flower Lobelia flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Cardinal Flower Lobelia in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Planting & Growing

Cardinal Flower Lobelia will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 18 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 20 inches apart. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 3 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 should be grown in a location with partial shade or which is shaded from the hot afternoon sun. It is quite adaptable, preferring to grow in average to wet conditions, and will even tolerate some standing water. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is native to parts of North America, and parts of it are known to be toxic to humans and animals, so care should be exercised in planting it around children and pets.