

Origin

In 2011, a trial field was first planted with wild-collected seed-grown plants of *Teucrium chamaedrys* subsp. *nuchense* from the Republic of Georgia. Following germination, the plants were subjected to open pollination and the resulting seedlings were evaluated. In 2014, 'Pride of Georgia' was selected by James Ault, Ph.D., from the progeny due to its compact habit and short, upright inflorescences. Due to the nature of open pollination, the exact parentage of 'Pride of Georgia' is unknown. Revenue generated by this cultivar is shared with the Bakuriani Alpine Botanical Garden and Ilia State University in the Republic of Georgia.

Hardiness

USDA Zones 5-8

Bloom Season

Blooming begins in mid-July and continues through early to mid-September in northern Illinois (USDA Zone 5), averaging seven weeks. Because the red-purple calyces often persist into early October, this cultivar can provide interest from midsummer through early fall.

Plant Habit

'Pride of Georgia' is characterized by its rhizomatous spreading herbaceous perennial habit in contrast to most wall germanders (*T. chamaedrys*), which are clumping subshrubs with woody bases. In addition, it has a low-growing, compact habit with short inflorescences that blanket the plant during its bloom season.

Growth Rate and Size

One-year-old 'Pride of Georgia' plants were 5 inches tall and 18 inches wide. Three-year-old plants were 5 inches tall and 44 inches wide. This growth rate illustrates the short but spreading habit of this cultivar. Beyond three years, the plants continued to show lateral growth but have not grown above 10 inches tall (and only reach this height in peak bloom).

Pest/Disease Issues

No susceptibility or resistance to any diseases or pests observed.

Culture

This is a short, spreading perennial, so proper site selection is important. It grows best in full sun and well-drained soils. It prefers drier conditions to wet soils, requires less watering once established, and is tolerant of poor to average soils. Spent inflorescences can be pruned if considered undesirable. Plant edges can be sheared to promote a bushier, compact habit if growth becomes leggy. Severe cold can cause dieback, so mulching before winter is recommended in colder zones.

Propagation

Shoot tip cuttings are taken from vegetative growth in June in northern Illinois (USDA Zone 5). For consistent rooting, cuttings should be treated with 1,000 ppm K-IBA for 5 seconds and placed in a medium of two parts perlite and one part peat. At the Garden, cuttings are stuck in a 72-cell tray or other small pots and placed in a fog house with bench heat temperature set to 75 degrees Fahrenheit.

Ornamental Characteristics/Landscape Value

With a nearly two-month-long bloom period and 100% coverage of the plant at peak bloom, this selection can simply be grown for its attractive flowers that range from whitish-pink to deep pink (n)-9.9n

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