



Artichoke

Cynara cardunculus

Height: 6 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Artichoke Thistle

Description:

Splendid arching silvery, spiny foliage is an architectural delight in the garden; careful when handling the spiny foliage; bold thistle-like flowers can be eaten like artichokes when unopened; leaf stalks edible if blanched; invasive in some regions

Ornamental Features

Artichoke features showy purple pincushion flowers rising above the foliage from late spring to early summer. Its attractive spiny ferny leaves remain grayish green in colour throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Artichoke is an herbaceous annual with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a high maintenance plant that will require regular care and upkeep, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spiny
- Self-Seeding

Artichoke is recommended for the following landscape applications;



Artichoke

Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Artichoke flowers

Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

- Accent
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Herb Gardens

Planting & Growing

Artichoke will grow to be about 5 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. Although it's not a true annual, this plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. This species is not originally from North America.



Artichoke foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder