Cooky Avens

Geum coccineum 'Cooky'



Cooky Avens flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 6 inches

Flower Height: 10 inches

Spread: 10 inches

Spacing: 8 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 4b

Other Names: Chilean Avens

Description:

Luminous, cup shaped flowers that are bright orange in color and brilliant in the sun; blooms throughout the summer over medium green, toothed foliage; stunning in borders and perennial beds

Ornamental Features

Cooky Avens has orange cup-shaped flowers with gold eyes at the ends of the stems from late spring to mid summer, which are interesting on close inspection. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its serrated lobed leaves remain green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Cooky Avens is an herbaceous perennial with tall flower stalks held atop a low mound of foliage. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Cooky Avens is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

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Planting & Growing

Cooky Avens will grow to be only 6 inches tall at maturity extending to 10 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 10 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 8 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. It grows at a medium 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 does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider covering it with a thick layer of mulch in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. 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.

Cooky Avens 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 larger 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.