Tropaeolum x ‘Jewel Mix’

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Introduction

Nasturtium is an uncommon plant occasionally seen in the garden center. Plants display round leaves on long petioles emerging from a shortened stem. Bright, showy, red or orange flowers are held among the foliage and remain partially hidden from view.

General Information

Scientific name: Tropaeolum x ‘Jewel Mix’
Pronunciation: troe-PEE-oh-lum
Common name(s): ‘Jewel Mix’ Watercress, ‘Jewel Mix’ Nasturtium
Family: Tropaeolaceae
Plant type: annual; herbaceous
USDA hardiness zones: all zones (Fig. 1)
Planting month for zone 7: Jun; Jul
Planting month for zone 8: May; Jun
Planting month for zone 9: Mar; Apr; Oct; Nov
Planting month for zone 10 and 11: Nov; Dec; Jan; Feb; Mar
Origin: not native to North America
Uses: container or above-ground planter; mass planting; edging; border; culinary; attracts hummingbirds; hanging basket
Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant

Description

Height: 1 to 1.5 feet
Spread: 1 to 2 feet
Plant habit: round

Plant density: dense
Growth rate: moderate
Texture: coarse

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: most emerge from the soil, usually without a stem
Leaf type: simple
Leaf margin: undulate; lobed
Leaf shape: orbiculate
Leaf venation: palmate
Leaf type and persistence: not applicable
Leaf blade length: 2 to 4 inches
Leaf color: green
Fall color: not applicable
Fall characteristic: not applicable

Flower

Flower color: red; orange
Flower characteristic: summer flowering; flower season is longer in zones 9-11

Fruit

Fruit shape: no fruit
Fruit length: no fruit
Fruit cover: no fruit
Fruit color: not applicable
Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy

Trunk and Branches
Figure 1. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Trunk/bark/branches: not applicable
Current year stem/twig color: not applicable
Current year stem/twig thickness: not applicable

Use and Management

The plant can be used along a walk or as a border at the edge of a landscape bed. The foliage stays fresh looking provided the plants receive some afternoon shade. They look best when provided with occasional irrigation when the weather gets dry.

Plants are useful in salads. Both flowers and foliage can be eaten and are quite nice. Surprise guests by picking bright flowers from the garden and include them in the salad.

Other

Roots: not applicable
Winter interest: not applicable
Outstanding plant: not particularly outstanding
Invasive potential: may self-seed each year
Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests