

Veronicastrum sibiricum 'Cupid' ('Red Arrows') Cupid Culver's Root

Veronicastrum sibiricum 'Cupid' (Cupid Culver's Root) has four-season interest. Foliage emerges in late spring as elliptical leaves whorled around upright, unbranched stems, creating a vertical column of star-like clusters. Its bold spikes of fuchsia-purple flower clusters bloom on tall stems (3-4') from July to August. Inflorescences consist of one, larger central spike, surrounded by a whorl of smaller spikes at the base. Spikes are slightly tapered and bloom sequentially, starting with flowers at the base and moving upward. Vibrant flower color varies from fuchsia-purple to reddish-purple. A variety of pollinators visit this plant. In fall, leaves transition from bright yellow to brown, topped by bronzed fronds of seed heads. Plants hold their strongly upright form until a heavy snow. Cupid Culver's Root prefers full sun and well-drained, medium to wet soils. While this specific variety has limited nursery availability, many beautiful Culver's Root varieties are more widely available.

Botanical Name: Veronicastrum sibiricum 'Cupid' (aka 'Red Arrows')

Common Name: Cupid Culver's Root

Family: Plantaginaceae

Nativity: Not Native to US

USDA Zone: 4 to 8

Light Type: Full sun, Light Shade

Soil Type: Clay, Loam

Soil Preferences: Well-drained

Soil Moisture: Medium to Wet

Typical height (ft): 3-4'

Typical width (ft): 2-3'

Foliage: Deep to medium green

Bloom Time: July, August

Bloom: Purple, fuchsia, red

Ecological features: Floral resources for bees, butterflies, and other pollinators

Tolerance of: Deer, heat

Additional notes: Naturalistic plantings, cottage gardens or wild gardens; limited nursery availability

Companion plants: Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia fulgida*), Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*), Bee Balm (*Monarda* spp.), Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*), Matrona Sedum (*Sedum 'Matrona'*), Nicky Phlox (*Phlox 'Nicky'*), tall ornamental grasses

For more information see:

<https://www.perennials.com/plants/veronicastrum-virginicum-cupid.html>

https://www.chicagobotanic.org/plantcollections/plantfinder/veronicastrum_virginicum_red_arrows--red_arrows_culvers_root

<https://www.ballyrobertgardens.com/products/veronicastrum-red-arrows>

<https://www.pleasantrunnursery.com/plantname/Veronicastrum-virginicum-Cupid>

Images of Veronicastrum sibiricum 'Cupid' ('Red Arrows')



Veronicastrum_Red_Arrows_1.webp

Form: flowering spikes float above tall foliage columns



5373.jpg

Smaller flower spikes surround the main central spike



2492.jpg

Violet-purple bloom with nectar close-up



2493.jpg

Curled spikes

Image choices for narrative:

Veronicastrum_Red_Arrows_1.webp - a series of stacked star-like leaf clusters

5373.jpg - Smaller flower spikes surround the main central spike