

Phlomis tuberosa 'Prima Donna' Prima Donna Jerusalem Sage

Phlomis tuberosa 'Prima Donna' (Prima Donna Jerusalem Sage) is a varietal bred and developed by Piet Oudolf in Hummelo, Netherlands. 'Prima Donna' was selected for its branching characteristics and abundant flowering. A perennial of the mint family, it contains tiny, tubular violet flowers in dense whorled clusters that bloom at intervals up vertical, columnar, dark red flowering stems reaching 2-3 feet in height. Upright flower stems rise well above wrinkled, rough-textured mounds of foliage. Blooming from May to July, flower clusters then give way to ornamental seed heads which remain attractive throughout fall and into winter. Flowers are attractive to bees and butterflies. Plants prefer well-drained, moist to dry soils in full sun or part shade. Displays some drought tolerance and resistance to deer browse.

Botanical Name: Phlomis tuberosa 'Prima Donna'

Common Name: Prima Donna Jerusalem Sage

Family: Lamiaceae

Nativity: Not Native to US

USDA Zone: 6 to 9

Light Type: Full Sun to Part Shade

Soil Type: Loam, Sand

Soil Preferences: Well-drained, sandy-loam

Soil Moisture: Moist to Dry

Typical height (ft): 2-3' (foliage 1'; 2-3' total height in flower)

Typical width (ft): 2-3'

Foliage: Dark Green

Bloom Time: May, June, July

Bloom: Pink, Lavender

Ecological features: Provides floral resources for bees, butterflies, and other pollinators

Tolerance of: Heat, some drought, some deer

Additional notes: Foliage 1'/2-3' total height in flower; new to cultivation; stay tuned.

Companion plants: Woodland Sage (*Salvia nemorosa*), Coneflower (*Echinacea* spp.), Sneezeweed varieties (*Helenium* spp.), Ornamental Grasses

For more information see:

<https://www.diggingdog.com/plant/P-0307>

<https://www.futureplants.com/perennial-varieties/phlomis/phlomis-prima-donna>

https://www.burncoose.co.uk/site/plants.cfm?pl_id=3196

Images of Phlomis tuberosa 'Prima Donna'



Phlomis tuberosa 'Prima Donna'_1.jpg
plant form



Phlomis tuberosa 'Prima Donna'_2.jpg
upright flower



Phlomis tuberosa 'Prima Donna'_3.jpg
combine with other flowers



Phlomis tuberosa 'Prima Donna'_4.jpg
Architectural winter interest of seed heads

Image choices for narrative:

Phlomis tuberosa 'Prima Donna'_1.jpg -- plant form

Phlomis tuberosa 'Prima Donna'_2.jpg -- upright flower

Phlomis tuberosa 'Prima Donna'_4.jpg - Architectural winter interest of seed heads