

Botanical Name: Ceanothus 'Dark Star'

Common Name: No common name

Type of Plant: dicot: shrub Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape a medium-sized Ceanothus, with distinctive stiff branching and closely-set tiny leaves; with age, forms a broadly rounded to mounded shape

Height 3' - 5' (6') Spread equal or more Growth Rate moderate-rapid

Environment:

Exposure outdoors thrives in full sun; prefers some partial shading at interior valley/foothill locations in So. California

Soil prefers well-draining sites; avoid poor-draining clay soil

Hardiness hardy (zones 4-7, 14-24): prefers warm locations nearer the coast

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, alternate, tiny (1/4"-1/2" long), oval-oblong, closely set on branchlets; dark glossy green above, paler green beneath; deeply furrowed ('wrinkled'); margins not toothed

Flowers dark cobalt blue, in small round clusters; March-April

Fruit insignificant

Propagation: softwood or semi-softwood cuttings

Usage: a rather fast-growing large filler, good for 'quick

effects' for its heavy display of flowers; tends to be rather short-lived at

inland locations if heat or drought-stressed; informal mass-plantings on slopes

Landscape Care:

Watering prefers little water in mild-climate zones near the coast; needs an occasional deep soak at inland sites (14-21 days)

Fertilizing little needed after establishment

Pruning selectively head back if needed after blooming period; avoid heavy pruning or shearing

Pests/Diseases root-fungus diseases in poorly-draining clay soils

Special Conditions

Origin: cultivar Family: Rhamnaceae