



Chicagoland Grows®, Inc.



Plant Introduction Program – Plant Release Bulletin #53

Teucrium chamaedrys subsp. *nuchense*
'Pride of Georgia' Wall Germander PP33,599
Lamiaceae (Mint family)

While not particularly well-known as garden plants, germanders have several desirable traits, and the Chicagoland Grows® introduction, 'Pride of Georgia' is no exception. Unlike other wall germanders, this selection has a low-growing, rhizomatous spreading habit that makes an excellent ground cover. With a nearly two-month bloom period beginning in midsummer, dark inflorescences with multi-toned pink flowers provide long-lasting appeal. Developed from germplasm collected in the Republic of Georgia, this cultivar will provide a unique presence to any garden.

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Origin

In 2011, a trial field was first planted with wild-collected seed-grown plants of *Teucrium chamaedrys* subsp. *nuchense* from the Republic of Georgia. Following germination, the plants were subjected to open pollination and the resulting seedlings were evaluated. In 2014, 'Pride of Georgia' was selected by James Ault, Ph.D., from the progeny due to its compact habit and short, upright inflorescences. Due to the nature of open pollination, the exact parentage of 'Pride of Georgia' is unknown. Revenue generated by this cultivar is shared with the Bakuriani Alpine Botanical Garden and Ilia State University in the Republic of Georgia.

Hardiness

USDA Zones 5-8

Bloom Season

Blooming begins in mid-July and continues through early to mid-September in northern Illinois (USDA Zone 5), averaging seven weeks. Because the red-purple calyces often persist into early October, this cultivar can provide interest from midsummer through early fall.

Plant Habit

'Pride of Georgia' is characterized by its rhizomatous spreading herbaceous perennial habit in contrast to most wall germanders (*T. chamaedrys*), which are clumping subshrubs with woody bases. In addition, it has a low-growing, compact habit with short inflorescences that blanket the plant during its bloom season.

Growth Rate and Size

One-year-old 'Pride of Georgia' plants were 5 inches tall and 18 inches wide. Three-year-old plants were 5 inches tall and 44 inches wide. This growth rate illustrates the short but spreading habit of this cultivar. Beyond three years, the plants continued to show lateral growth but have not grown above 10 inches tall (and only reach this height in peak bloom).

Pest/Disease Issues

No susceptibility or resistance to any diseases or pests observed.

Culture

This is a short, spreading perennial, so proper site selection is important. It grows best in full sun and well-drained soils. It prefers drier conditions to wet soils, requires less watering once established, and is tolerant of poor to average soils. Spent inflorescences can be pruned if considered undesirable. Plant edges can be sheared to promote a bushier, compact habit if growth becomes leggy. Severe cold can cause dieback, so mulching before winter is recommended in colder zones.

Propagation

Shoot tip cuttings are taken from vegetative growth in June in northern Illinois (USDA Zone 5). For consistent rooting, cuttings should be treated with 1,000 ppm K-IBA for 5 seconds and placed in a medium of two parts perlite and one part peat. At the Garden, cuttings are stuck in a 72-cell tray or other small pots and placed in a fog house with bench heat temperature set to 75 degrees Fahrenheit.

Ornamental Characteristics/Landscape Value

With a nearly two-month-long bloom period and 100% coverage of the plant at peak bloom, this selection can simply be grown for its attractive flowers that range from whitish-pink to deep pink borne on short, deep purple inflorescences. 'Pride of Georgia' has other benefits to offer though. Its short height and spreading habit make it an excellent ground cover plant that functions well along the front edge of perennial beds. Its preference for somewhat drier conditions makes it ideal for rock gardens. Unlike other members of the mint family, its foliage lacks fragrance, but its flowers are pleasantly scented.

Chicagoland Grows® is a nonprofit corporation of the Chicago Botanic Garden, The Morton Arboretum, and the Ornamental Growers Association of Northern Illinois (OGA). The Chicagoland Grows® Plant Introduction Program is dedicated to the evaluation, selection, production, and marketing of recommended and new plant cultivars. Plants selected for the program have proven to be adaptable to the Midwest and are made available to the commercial and retail landscape industry through an international network of growers and propagators.

