

Amaranthus caudatus

Common Name: love-lies-bleeding

Type: Annual

Family: Amaranthaceae

Zone: 2 to 11

Native Range: Africa, India, Peru

Height: 2 to 4 feet

Spread: 1 to 2 feet

Bloom Time: July to To frost

Bloom Color: Red

Bloom Description: Red

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Medium

Maintenance: Low

Flowers: Showy Flowers

Tolerates: Drought

Uses: Suitable as Annual

Susceptible viruses, aster yellows and fungal leaf spot diseases. Plants grown in the ground may need staking or other support.

Garden Uses

Best in hanging baskets where drooping flowers are best seen. May be used in beds or borders. Interesting edging along walks or paths.

Ref. April 30, 2013

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/gardens-gardening/your-garden/plant-finder/plant-details/kc/a558/amaranthus-caudatus.aspx>

Culture

Annual. Easily grown in moist, average, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Best flowering in full sun, but appreciates some afternoon shade in hot summer climates. Start seed indoors 6-8 weeks before last frost date or purchase starter plants. When grown from seed, flowers usually don't appear until approximately 3 months after sowing. Set out plants after last frost date. Space smaller varieties 8-12" apart and larger varieties to 18" apart.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Love-lies-bleeding or tassel flower gets its unusual common name from its tiny blood red petalless flowers that bloom in narrow, drooping, tassel-like, terminal and axillary panicles throughout the growing season. Panicles typically hang straight down to 12" (infrequently to 24") long. Native to India, Africa and Peru, this is an annual that usually grows 2-4' tall in the St. Louis area. Cultivars with yellow-green flowers are also available. Oval, light green leaves (to 6" long). The seeds of this species are edible, and species plants are grown as a grain crop in some parts of South America. This plant is an everlasting (*Amaranthus* comes from the Greek word for unfading) whose flowers retain some color when dried for arrangements.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Watch for aphids. Root rot may occur in poorly drained soils.

