



'Allyson' Mexican Heather

Texas Superstar® - June 2020 Promotion



Photo
Series

Mexican Heather is an old-fashioned ornamental plant that adds big color to gardens and landscapes. It has been a favorite in Texas gardens for many years and is also a top attractor for pollinators like bees and butterflies.

While Mexican Heathers, as a group, have been named as a Texas Superstar, one of the standout varieties is Allyson, an improved variety with showy flowers and compact size. With its small green leaves and abundant petite rose-purple flowers, it has performed beyond other varieties.

Exposure: *They grow best in full sun, but late afternoon summer shade is preferred.*

Mature size: *Allyson grows 12-18 inches tall, 16-18 inches wide*

Plant type: *While technically a perennial, it is best grown in Bexar County as a seasonal annual, especially from late spring to the first frost. However, they often re-sprout late in the following spring after a mild winter. But new spring plantings always outperform carry over plants.*

Planting: *Plants are readily available spring through summer. Quart or 4.5-inch containers are available in the spring, with larger 10-inch hanging baskets and patio specimens found later in the season.*

For landscape plantings, amend native soils with liberal amounts of landscape mix containing finished compost. Container specimens should be grown with a peat-based premium potting mix that is cut with about 20% finished compost.

Incorporating copious amounts of an appropriate slow-release fertilizer at the time of planting will help ensure vigorous growth and maximize flower. Supplement with a water-soluble fertilizer every 10-14 days throughout the growing season is also beneficial.

Plants benefit from mulching and regular summer irrigation but do not tolerate standing water. Newly planted Mexican Heather will need to be watered more frequently until well established. The use of mulch is beneficial.

Suggested uses: *Mexican Heather is best used as mass bedding, in mixed borders, mixed containers, butterfly and/or pollinator gardens or as stand-alone patio specimens and hanging baskets.*

Adapted for Bexar County from: [Mexican Heather makes Texas Superstar list](#) by Adam Russell in Texas AgriLife Today