The Flower Bin
Garden Center & Nursery & Gift House

1805 Nelson Road
Longmont, CO 80501
Phone: 303-772-3454
www.theflowerbin.net

Gibson's Scarlet Cinquefoil

Potentilla nepalensis 'Gibson's Scarlet'



Gibson's Scarlet Cinquefoil flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 12 inches

Spread: 12 inches

Spacing: 9 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4

Ornamental Features

Gibson's Scarlet Cinquefoil features delicate panicles of scarlet flowers with dark red eyes at the ends of the stems from early to late summer. Its small serrated oval compound leaves remain dark green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Gibson's Scarlet Cinquefoil is an herbaceous perennial with a mounded form. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spreading

Gibson's Scarlet Cinquefoil is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

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Planting & Growing

Gibson's Scarlet Cinquefoil will grow to be about 10 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 12 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 9 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any standing water. It is not particular as to soil type, but has a definite preference for alkaline soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Gibson's Scarlet Cinquefoil is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers against which the thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.