



Japanese Primrose

Primula kisoana

Plant Height: 4 inches

Flower Height: 8 inches

Spread: 6 inches

Spacing: 5 inches

Sunlight: ● ●

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Cowslip, Polyanthus

Ornamental Features

Japanese Primrose features delicate panicles of pink star-shaped flowers with crimson eyes at the ends of the stems in early spring. Its small serrated round leaves remain green in color throughout the season. The fruit is not ornamentally significant.

Landscape Attributes

Japanese Primrose is an herbaceous perennial with tall flower stalks held atop a low mound of foliage. It brings an extremely fine and delicate texture to the garden composition and should be used to full effect.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Japanese Primrose is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Japanese Primrose will grow to be only 4 inches tall at maturity extending to 8 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 6 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 5 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 5 years.



Japanese Primrose flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



This plant does best in partial shade to shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider covering it with a thick layer of mulch in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is not originally from North America.