

# Ritchie

## FEED & SEED INC.



### Sweet Kate Spiderwort

*Tradescantia x andersoniana* 'Sweet Kate'

Height: 18 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Spacing: 14 inches

Sunlight: ● ●

Hardiness Zone: 3a

Other Names: Widow's Tears

#### Ornamental Features

Sweet Kate Spiderwort has masses of beautiful clusters of royal blue flowers at the ends of the stems from early to late summer, which are most effective when planted in groupings. Its attractive grassy leaves emerge gold in spring, turning chartreuse in colour throughout the season.

#### Landscape Attributes

Sweet Kate Spiderwort is an herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Sweet Kate Spiderwort is recommended for the following landscape applications;



*Sweet Kate Spiderwort flowers*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



*Sweet Kate Spiderwort in bloom*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

#### Ottawa West

2079 Carp Road  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada  
K2S 1B9  
Telephone: +1 613 836 6880

#### Ottawa East

1390 Windmill Lane  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada  
K1B 4V5  
Toll Free: +1 800 267 1922  
Telephone: +1 613 741 4430

#### Brockville

3043 County Rd. 29  
Brockville, Ontario, Canada  
K6V 5T4  
Telephone: +1 613 341 9343

# **Ritchie**

## **FEED & SEED INC.**

- *Mass Planting*
- *Border Edging*
- *General Garden Use*
- *Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens*

### **Planting & Growing**

Sweet Kate Spiderwort will grow to be about 18 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 18 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 14 inches apart. It grows at a fast 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! As this plant tends to go dormant in summer, it is best interplanted with late-season bloomers to hide the dying foliage.

This plant does best in partial shade to shade. It requires an evenly moist well-drained soil for optimal growth. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid. 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.



*Sweet Kate Spiderwort flowers*  
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