Longfellow's Greenhouses

Cotton Lavender

Santolina chamaecyparissus

Height: 18 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 5

Other Names: Gray Santolina

Description:

This beautifully fine textured variety produces spectacular silver foliage with a hint of gray-green througout, and bright yellow button flowers in summer; traditionally used as a low hedge in herb gardens; perfect accent in the rock garden or borders

Ornamental Features

Cotton Lavender features showy spikes of lightly-scented yellow button flowers at the ends of the branches from early to mid summer. The flowers are excellent for cutting. It has attractive silver evergreen foliage. The fragrant narrow leaves are highly ornamental and remain silver throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Cotton Lavender is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a mounded form. It lends an extremely fine and delicate texture to the landscape composition which should be used to full effect.

This shrub will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. 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.

Cotton Lavender
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Cotton Lavender is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Cotton Lavender foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Cotton Lavender will grow to be about 18 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. It has a low canopy. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years.

This shrub should only be grown in full sunlight. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. It is not particular as to soil type or pH, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America.

Cotton Lavender makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers and foliage against which the thriller plants stand out. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden. Be aware that in our climate, most plants cannot be expected to survive the winter if left in containers outdoors, and this plant is no exception. Contact our experts for more information on how to protect it over the winter months.

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