White Rockrose

Cistus ladanifer 'var. albiflorus'

Height: 8 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 7

Other Names: Rock Rose



White Rockrose flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



White Rockrose in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Description:

Clusters of pretty white flowers cover the fuzzy-textured dark green foliage in late spring; a great groundcover or rock garden plant; tolerant of poor, dry soils, hot garden locations and salt spray

Ornamental Features

White Rockrose is smothered in stunning white round flowers with yellow eyes at the ends of the branches from late spring to early summer. It has attractive dark green deciduous foliage. The fuzzy pointy leaves are highly ornamental but do not develop any appreciable fall color.

Landscape Attributes

White Rockrose is a dense multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a mounded form. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, 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. It has no significant negative characteristics.

White Rockrose is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

White Rockrose will grow to be about 8 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front, and is suitable for planting under power lines. 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 xeriscaping or the moisture-conserving landscape. 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 is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

White Rockrose makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. 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.