Plume Moss

Ptilium crista-castrensis



Plume Moss
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 6 inches

Spread: 6 inches

Spacing: 5 inches

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 2

Other Names: Knights Plume, Feathermoss, Ostrich Plume

Description:

An elegant feathermoss groundcover that is naturally found on northern forest floors; bright green to gold, fine foliage is lush and airy; great for a moist shaded area

Ornamental Features

Plume Moss' attractive tiny threadlike pinnately compound leaves remain green in color throughout the season on a plant with a spreading habit of growth.

Landscape Attributes

Plume Moss is a dense herbaceous perennial with a ground-hugging habit of growth. 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 never be pruned except to remove any dieback, as it tends not to take pruning well. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Plume Moss is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover

Planting & Growing

Plume Moss will grow to be only 6 inches tall at maturity, 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. 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 partial shade to full shade. Keep it well away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is quite intolerant of urban pollution, therefore inner city or urban streetside plantings are best avoided. This species is native to parts of North America.