American Climacium Moss

Climacium americanum



American Climacium Moss
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 2 inches

Spread: 6 inches

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 2

Other Names: Mountain Moss, Tree Moss

Description:

This rich moss forms a mat of green foliage, creating a great groundcover for shady damp areas; sometimes called tree moss because it looks like tiny trees; bright green spring color matures to greenish yellow in late summer

Ornamental Features

American Climacium Moss' attractive tiny needle-like leaves emerge light green in spring, turning green in color on a plant with a spreading habit of growth. The foliage often turns chartreuse in fall.

Landscape Attributes

American Climacium Moss is a dense herbaceous evergreen 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 is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It has no significant negative characteristics.

American Climacium Moss is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

American Climacium Moss will grow to be only 2 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 6 inches. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 5 years. As an evegreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

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 is quite adaptable, prefering to grow in average to wet conditions, and will even tolerate some standing water. 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 somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is native to parts of North America. It can be propagated by division.

American Climacium Moss is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its spreading habit of growth, it is ideally suited for use as a 'spiller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the edges where it can spill gracefully over the pot. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.