Golden Heads

Chrysocoma coma-aurea



Golden Heads in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 24 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 8

Other Names: Bitterbush, Golden Cowcud

Description:

A small bushy shrub with masses of yellow flower heads in spring; deadhead, and prune after flowering to maintain shape; drought tolerant once established; a fine container plant or addition to a rock garden

Ornamental Features

Golden Heads has masses of beautiful yellow button flowers at the ends of the branches from early spring to early summer, which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. It has green deciduous foliage. The needle-like leaves do not develop any appreciable fall color.

Landscape Attributes

Golden Heads is a dense multi-stemmed deciduous 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 is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Golden Heads is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Golden Heads will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front. 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 is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any 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 sandy soils, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone over the growing season to conserve soil moisture. This species is not originally from North America.

Golden Heads makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. It can be used either as 'filler' or as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, depending on the height and form of the other plants used in the container planting. 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.