Rice Flower

Ozothamnus diosmifolius



Rice Flower flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 6 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 8

Other Names: Sago Bush, syn. Helichrysum diosmifolius

Description:

An airy evergreen shrub that produces fine, aromatic, dark green needle-like foliage topped with long lasting clusters of white flowers all season; pinch back frequently when young to maintain shape; drought tolerant once established



Rice Flower in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Rice Flower is covered in stunning clusters of white flowers at the ends of the branches from mid spring to mid fall. The flowers are excellent for cutting. It has attractive dark green evergreen foliage. The needles are highly ornamental and remain dark green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Rice Flower is an open multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a mounded form. It lends an extremely fine and delicate texture to the landscape composition which can make it a great accent feature on this basis alone.

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. 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.

Rice Flower is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Rice Flower will grow to be about 6 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 fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. 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 type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by cuttings.

Rice Flower 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.