Creeping Baby's Breath

Gypsophila repens



Creeping Baby's Breath in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 6 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 2

Description:

Spreading mounds of gray-green foliage covered in small white star shaped flowers create a soft and airy look to borders and beds; drought tolerant once established; suitable for containers or hanging baskets; blooms late spring to early summer



Creeping Baby's Breath flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Creeping Baby's Breath has masses of beautiful plumes of white star-shaped flowers at the ends of the stems from late spring to early summer, which are most effective when planted in groupings. Its grassy leaves remain grayish green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Creeping Baby's Breath is an 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 is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Creeping Baby's Breath is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting
- Hanging Baskets

Planting & Growing

Creeping Baby's Breath will grow to be only 6 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 18 inches. 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 10 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 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 a low-water garden or xeriscape application. It is not particular as to soil type, but has a definite preference for alkaline soils, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is not originally from North America.

Creeping Baby's Breath is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. 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.