Serpents Blue Chalk Fingers

Senecio vitalis 'Serpents'



Serpents Blue Chalk Fingers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 18 inches

Flower Height: 24 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 9

Other Names: Blue Chalk Sticks, syn Senecio cylindricus

Description:

An interesting and beautiful succulent variety producing long, narrow blue-gray, finger like foliage that reaches upward; a perfect accent in rock gardens, containers, or massed as a medium height groundcover

Ornamental Features

Serpents Blue Chalk Fingers's attractive succulent narrow leaves emerge chartreuse in spring, turning powder blue in color the rest of the year on a plant with an upright spreading habit of growth. It features dainty corymbs of creamy white flowers held atop the stems from mid spring to mid summer.

Landscape Attributes

Serpents Blue Chalk Fingers is an herbaceous evergreen perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and usually looks its best without pruning, although it will tolerate pruning. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Serpents Blue Chalk Fingers is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Serpents Blue Chalk Fingers will grow to be about 18 inches tall at maturity extending to 24 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 18 inches. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an evegreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. 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 or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Serpents Blue Chalk Fingers is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use 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. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.