Cushion Bush

Calocephalus brownii



Cushion Bush
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 24 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: syn. Leucophyta brownii

Description:

This shimmering shrub has a compact , branching habit and soft stems with finely textured silver foliage; a fine contrasting addition to mixed containers or baskets, or mass in the garden for a stunning effect

Ornamental Features

Cushion Bush's attractive tiny scale-like leaves remain silver in color throughout the year on a plant with a mounded habit of growth.

Landscape Attributes

Cushion Bush is a multi-stemmed annual with a mounded form. 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.

Cushion Bush is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Cushion Bush will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 18 inches. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. Although it's not a true annual, this plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type or pH, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is not originally from North America.

Cushion Bush is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting 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 growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.