Silver Leaf Cassia

Senna phyllodinea

Height: 6 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 8

Other Names: Silver Cassia, Silvery Cassia

Description:

A fast growing evergreen shrub with limber branches holding narrow, flat, sickle-shaped leaves that shimmer silvery-gray; clusters of yellow flowers appear from mid winter to spring, followed by persistent seed pods; drought and heat tolerant



Silver Leaf Cassia flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Silver Leaf Cassia in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Silver Leaf Cassia features showy clusters of yellow pea-like flowers at the ends of the branches from mid winter to early spring. It has grayish green foliage with white undersides and tinges of silver. The narrow leaves remain grayish green throughout the winter. The fruits are showy brown pods displayed from early summer to early winter. The smooth gray bark adds an interesting dimension to the landscape.

Landscape Attributes

Silver Leaf Cassia is a multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

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. It is a good choice for attracting bees, butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Silver Leaf Cassia is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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



Silver Leaf Cassia flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Silver Leaf Cassia will grow to be about 6 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 6 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, 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 20 years.

This shrub 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 xeriscaping or the moisture-conserving landscape. It is not particular as to soil type or pH, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America.

Silver Leaf Cassia makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use 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. 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.