SunFern™ Olympia Russian Wormwood

Artemisia gmelinii 'Balfernlym'



SunFern Olympia Russian Wormwood foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 18 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Spacing: 16 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4

Description:

Beautiful, robust dark green foliage with a ferny appearance; a great accent plant for containers or the landscape; low maintenance, very drought tolerant and winter hardy; best in full sun but tolerates some shade; perfect for xeriscaping; non-invasive

Ornamental Features

SunFern Olympia Russian Wormwood's attractive tiny deeply cut ferny bipinnately compound leaves remain dark green in color with hints of silver throughout the season on a plant with a mounded habit of growth. The red stems can be quite attractive.

Landscape Attributes

SunFern Olympia Russian Wormwood is an herbaceous perennial with a mounded form. It brings an extremely fine and delicate texture to the garden composition and should be used to full effect.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. 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.

SunFern Olympia Russian Wormwood is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

SunFern Olympia Russian Wormwood will grow to be about 18 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 18 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 16 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a medium 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 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 pH, but grows best in sandy soils. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

SunFern Olympia Russian Wormwood is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a canvas of foliage against which the thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.