Leafless Leadwort

Plumbago aphylla

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 8

Other Names: Leafless Plumbago

Description:

An upright slender shrub producing erect or ascending stems, from a taproot, that are leafless with little branching; clusters of tiny white flowers bloom from late summer to winter; may die back to the ground in zone 8; an excellent container plant



Leafless Leadwort flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Leafless Leadwort features dainty clusters of white trumpet-shaped flowers with lime green throats at the ends of the branches from late summer to mid winter. It has green evergreen foliage. The leaves remain green throughout the winter. The green stems are very effective and add winter interest.



Leafless Leadwort
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Leafless Leadwort is a multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a shapely form and gracefully arching branches. It lends an extremely fine and delicate texture to the landscape composition which should be used to full effect.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Leafless Leadwort is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Leafless Leadwort will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. It has a low canopy. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 40 years or more.

This shrub 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. This plant does not require much in the way of fertilizing once established. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in sandy soils, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America.

Leafless Leadwort makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used 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.