Alpine Mouse Ears

Cerastium alpinum



Alpine Mouse Ears foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 6 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 3

Other Names: Alpine Chickweed

Description:

Interesting fuzzy textured 'mouse-ear' foliage with pretty white flowers in spring; this drought resistant plant is great in rock and alpine gardens

Ornamental Features

Alpine Mouse Ears is blanketed in stunning white bell-shaped flowers at the ends of the stems from mid spring to early summer. Its small tomentose round leaves remain dark green in color throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Alpine Mouse Ears is an herbaceous evergreen perennial with a ground-hugging habit of growth. 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 should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. 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.

Alpine Mouse Ears is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Alpine Mouse Ears will grow to be only 6 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 18 inches. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. 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 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 a low-water garden or xeriscape application. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in poor soils. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division.

Alpine Mouse Ears is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its spreading habit of growth, it is ideally suited for use as a 'spiller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the edges where it can spill gracefully over the pot. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.