Labrador Tea

Rhododendron groenlandicum



Labrador Tea flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight: ◐

Hardiness Zone: 2

Other Names: Ledum groenlandicum

Description:

Recently re-classed as a Rhododendron; native in northern climes with lacey white flowers in late spring and a compact habit, quite hardy; a bog plant for use in wet poorly drained areas; must have acidid soil, use plenty of peat moss when planting

Ornamental Features

Labrador Tea features dainty clusters of white star-shaped flowers at the ends of the branches in late spring. It has green foliage with coppery-bronze undersides. The fuzzy narrow leaves remain green throughout the winter.



Labrador Tea in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Labrador Tea is an open multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a more or less rounded form. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other landscape plants with finer foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Labrador Tea is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Bog Gardens

Planting & Growing

Labrador Tea will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. 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 a location that gets morning sunlight but is shaded from the hot afternoon sun, although it will also grow in partial shade. Keep it away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. It prefers to grow in moist to wet soil, and will even tolerate some standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is particular about its soil conditions, with a strong preference for poor, acidic soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is native to parts of North America.