



Coulter Bush *Athanasia acerosa*

Height: 6 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight: 

Hardiness Zone: 8b

Other Names: syn. *Phymaspermum acerosa*

Description:

Finely cut foliage emerges silver and matures to gray-green; bright yellow clusters of flowers in spring; excellent for containers or massed along borders; very drought tolerant

Ornamental Features

Coulter Bush has masses of beautiful clusters of yellow button flowers at the ends of the branches from early to mid spring, which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. It has attractive grayish green evergreen foliage which emerges silver in spring. The deeply cut threadlike leaves are highly ornamental and remain grayish green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Coulter Bush is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. It lends an extremely fine and delicate texture to the landscape composition which can make it a great accent feature on this basis alone.



Coulter Bush
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Coulter Bush foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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 and butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Coulter Bush is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Coulter Bush will grow to be about 6 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. It has a low canopy, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 15 years.

This shrub should only be grown in full sunlight. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any 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. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division.

Coulter Bush 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.