

Lakeshore Garden Centres

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Rice Flower



Rice Flower

Ozothamnus diosmifolius

Height: 6 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ☉ ●

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Sago Bush, syn. *Helichrysum diosmifolius*

Description:

An airy evergreen shrub that produces fine, aromatic, dark green needle-like foliage topped with long lasting clusters of white flowers all season; pinch back frequently when young to maintain shape; drought tolerant once established

Ornamental Features

Rice Flower is covered in stunning clusters of white flowers at the ends of the branches from mid spring to mid fall. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive needle-like leaves remain dark green in colour throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Rice Flower is an open multi-stemmed annual 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 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.

Rice Flower is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Container Planting



Rice Flower flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Rice Flower in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Planting & Growing

Rice Flower will grow to be about 6 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. Although it's not a true annual, this fast-growing plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. 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 cuttings.

Rice Flower is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting 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 growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.