Armeria, Cotton Tail Thrift

Armeria maritima 'Cotton Tail'



Armeria, Cotton Tail Thrift flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 6 inches

Flower Height: 8 inches

Spread: 12 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 3a

Other Names: Cottontail; Sea Pink

Description:

This compact plant is great in rock and alpine gardens; pretty cotton white clusters of flowers rise above glossy, grassy foliage forming a neat clump; will tolerate areas affected by salt and heat

Ornamental Features

Armeria, Cotton Tail Thrift has masses of beautiful balls of white flowers at the ends of the stems from mid spring to early summer, which are most effective when planted in groupings. Its small glossy grassy leaves remain emerald green in color throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Armeria, Cotton Tail Thrift is a dense 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 be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. 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.

Armeria, Cotton Tail Thrift is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Armeria, Cotton Tail Thrift will grow to be only 6 inches tall at maturity extending to 8 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 12 inches. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. It grows at a slow 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 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. To help this plant achive its best flowering performance, periodically apply a flower-boosting fertilizer from early spring through into the active growing season. It is not particular as to soil type or pH, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Armeria, Cotton Tail Thrift 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.

Special Attributes

Armeria will need to be watered during the growing season, in the Lower Columbia Basin there isn't enough rainfall during the growing season. The amount of water and regularity depends on the your soil, the wind and the heat variables at different times.