Lithodora, White Star

Lithodora diffusa 'White Star'



Lithodora, White Star flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 4 inches

Flower Height: 6 inches

Spread: 22 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 6a

Other Names: Blue Lithospermum

Description:

Sky blue star-shaped flowers with white stripes cover this dense ground-hugging perennial; absolutely must have a well-drained, sandy soil to survive; makes an ideal rock or alpine garden addition

Ornamental Features

Lithodora, White Star is blanketed in stunning sky blue star-shaped flowers with white stripes at the ends of the stems from mid to late spring. Its small tomentose narrow leaves remain forest green in color throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Lithodora, White Star is an herbaceous evergreen perennial with a ground-hugging habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. 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.

Lithodora, White Star is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

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Planting & Growing

Lithodora, White Star will grow to be only 4 inches tall at maturity extending to 6 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 22 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 does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. 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 very fussy about its soil conditions and must have sandy, acidic soils to ensure success, and is subject to chlorosis (yellowing) of the foliage in alkaline soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider covering it with a thick layer of mulch in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. 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.

Lithodora, White Star 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.