

Silver Dust, Dusty Miller - Plant



The dusty miller plant (*Senecio cineraria*) is an interesting landscape addition, grown for its silvery gray foliage. While they are a beautiful plant on their own, they are commonly used to add a nice contrast to flower beds and along borders because they look good with any type and colour of flower or plant.

Rating: Not Rated Yet

Price

Sales price R 309

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Description

Description for Silver Dust, Dusty Miller

Although the dusty miller flower blooms in mid-summer, the small yellow blooms are small and not considered showy. Foliage of the dusty miller plant, however, is long lasting and drought resistant.

As with most silvery, furry plants, growing dusty miller helps the garden remain attractive through the heat of the summer. It will also tolerate frost.

Common name	Flower colours	Bloom time	Height	Difficulty
Silver dust	Yellow	Mid-summer	1-3 feet.	Easy.

Planting and care

Dusty miller is often planted in flower beds and is especially striking in containers where the lacy foliage is viewed up close. Dusty miller comes in several varieties, all of which have silvery foliage, but the shape of the leaves is slightly different. The mature height of the plant ranges from 8 to 18 inches. Dusty miller is often grown as an annual.

Sunlight	Soil	Water	Temperature	Fertilizer
full sun, but they will tolerate light shade.	Well drained garden soil	Water moderately until they have settled in.	65-75°F	Dusty miller is a light feeder and too much fertilizer may result in a weak, leggy plant

that requires more water.

It benefits from a light application of a general-purpose, slow-release fertilizer in early spring.

To apply the fertilizer, sprinkle 2 to 3 teaspoons of dry fertilizer around every plant, and then water deeply to prevent scorching and to distribute the fertilizer evenly around the roots. After that, you don't need to fertilize.

Caring for Silver Dust

Dusty miller care may involve a midsummer trim if the plant becomes leggy. The dusty miller flower may be removed to keep the plant compact. Bright sunlight brings out the best in dusty miller. In shade, the foliage is sparse, loose and more likely to become long and leggy, while plants grown in sunlight are leafy, dense and brilliant white. In mild climates, dusty miller remains attractive until after the first light frost and then reappears in spring. In this case, the plant often becomes shrubby and reaches heights up to 2 feet. In cooler climates, dusty miller is grown as an annual.

Typical uses of Silver Dust

Special features:

Ornamental use: Dusty miller may be used as a background plant for low-growing, creeping annual plants, such as wave petunias. It may be attractively placed among ornamental grasses. Growing dusty miller may effectively be used in borders or as part of an outdoor container planting.

References

- <http://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/foilage/dusty-miller/growing-dusty-miller.htm>
- http://www.thegardenhelper.com/dusty_miller.html
- <http://homeguides.sfgate.com/prune-overgrown-dusty-miller-52721.html>