Watch Chain Crassula

Crassula muscosa



Watch Chain Crassula
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 12 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 8b

Other Names: Princess Pine, Rattail Crassula

Description:

A low-rising variety with unusual narrow foliage that is stacked and tightly overlapping; very drought-tolerant and does well in poor soils; subtle pale yellow flowers along the stems in summer; an excellent choice for containers and rock gardens

Ornamental Features

Watch Chain Crassula's attractive succulent narrow leaves remain bluish-green in color throughout the year on a plant with an upright spreading habit of growth. It features subtle buttery yellow star-shaped flowers along the stems in mid summer. The flowers are excellent for cutting.

Landscape Attributes

Watch Chain Crassula is an herbaceous evergreen perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant. Trim off the flower heads after they fade and die to encourage more blooms late into the season. 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.

Watch Chain Crassula is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Watch Chain Crassula will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 15 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. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in poor soils, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is not originally from North America, and parts of it are known to be toxic to humans and animals, so care should be exercised in planting it around children and pets. It can be propagated by division.

Watch Chain Crassula is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers and foliage against which the larger thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.