Little Star New Zealand Myrtle

Lophomyrtus x ralphii 'Little Star'



Little Star New Zealand Myrtle foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 24 inches

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 8b

Other Names: Lophomyrtus bullata x obcordata

Description:

A small, low spreading shrub featuring small, rounded, green leaves bordered in cream and flushed with pink; small, scented white flowers in summer are followed by black berries; provide semi-shade in very hot summer climates

Ornamental Features

Little Star New Zealand Myrtle has attractive green foliage edged in creamy white with hints of pink on a plant with an upright spreading habit of growth. The tiny round leaves are highly ornamental and remain green throughout the winter. It features subtle clusters of white flowers at the ends of the branches from mid to late summer. It produces black berries from late summer to late fall.



Little Star New Zealand Myrtle
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Little Star New Zealand Myrtle is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. It lends an extremely fine and delicate texture to the landscape composition which should be used to full effect.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Little Star New Zealand Myrtle is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Little Star New Zealand Myrtle will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. It has a low canopy. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. This plant should not require much in the way of fertilizing once established, although it may appreciate a shot of general-purpose fertilizer from time to time early in the growing season. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid. It can be propagated by cuttings; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Little Star New Zealand Myrtle makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use 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 grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.