Sageleaf Rockrose

Cistus salviifolius

Height: 24 inches

Spread: 6 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 8a

Other Names: Sunrose, Rock Rose

Description:

Clusters of beautiful white flowers cover the fuzzy-textured gray-green foliage in late spring; a great groundcover with a low spreading habit; tolerant of poor, dry soils, hot garden locations and salt spray



Sageleaf Rockrose flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Sageleaf Rockrose is smothered in stunning white cup-shaped flowers with gold eyes at the ends of the branches from late spring to early summer, which emerge from distinctive shell pink flower buds. It has attractive grayish green evergreen foliage. The small fuzzy pointy leaves are highly ornamental and remain grayish green throughout the winter.



Sageleaf Rockrose in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Sageleaf Rockrose is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a mounded form. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. 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.

Sageleaf Rockrose is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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



Sageleaf Rockrose in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Sageleaf Rockrose will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 6 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years.

This shrub should only be grown in full sunlight. 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 type or pH, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America.

Sageleaf Rockrose makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. It can be used either as 'filler' or as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, depending on the height and form of the other plants used in the container planting. 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.