

Botanical Name: Cerastium tomentosum

Common Name: Snow-In-Summer

Type of Plant: dicot: perennial Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape spreading mass of silvery gray foliage growing on trailing stems that form a dense mat -- may crawl up into tufts or tall drifts

Height to 1' Spread to 5' Growth Rate rapid

Environment:

Exposure outdoor full sun to partial shade in desert areas

Soil tolerates any soil with good drainage

Hardiness hardy (all zones)

Morphology:

Leaves narrowly elliptical, to 1" long, 1/4" wide, oppositely arranged on the stem -- glaucous on both upper and lower surfaces

Flowers sprays of small white flowers, 1/2" across with lobed petals -- forms dense display in late spring or early summer

Fruit small capsule -- may seed heavily

Propagation: seed, division

Usage: excellent non-traffic bearing groundcover for coastal, desert or temperate landscapes -- excellent source of gray color, white flowers and weed resistant cover; fills well between low shrubs or perennials

Landscape Care:

Watering takes average water -- keep on the dry side to slow growth and lengthen life in the landscape

Fertilizing balanced, slow release at planting time, 2 times per year

Pruning shear faded flowers, head back to control size

Pests/Diseases aphids and scale, root rot in heavy soils

Special Conditions can be very aggressive in well-watered beds

Origin: Italy Family: Caryophyllaceae