

Botanical Name: Silene uniflora

Common Name: Maiden's tears, Balloon flower

Type of Plant: dicot: perennial Family Caryophyllaceae

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape Spreading, mat-forming perennial with fine textured gray-green foliage; white flowers are held above foliage

Height to 12 in. Spread to 24 in. Growth Rate slow-moderate

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full sun preferred; will tolerate part shade

Soil tolerates most soils with good drainage

Hardiness Hardy - all zones

Morphology:

Leaves narrowly elliptical to oblong, to 1" long, blue-green, oppositely arranged on stem; tip slightly mucronate

Flowers solitary, white petaled flowers with lobed margins, to 2" across, each enclosed with a globose buff-colored calyx which is persisant

Fruit rounded capsule

Propagation: seed, softwood cuttings

Usage: excellent hanging basket specimen, rock garden plant, small scale groundcover or facer plant; long blooming season makes this a good choice for small gardens where each plant should perform well for long periods

Landscape Care:

Watering prefers regular watering; not particularly drought tolerant

Fertilizing balanced, slow release at planting time; balanced fertilizer yearly

Pruning dead-head regularly; pinch to control size and spread

Pests/Diseases none significant

Other

Origin: Swiss Alps and mountains of southern Europe