

Botanical Name: Senecio mandraliscae

Common Name: Blue chalk sticks

Type of Plant: dicot: succulent Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape a low, somewhat shrubby plant with succulent leaves and  
branches spreading outward with upright tips to form a loose, open groundcover

Height 6" to 18" Spread to 2 ft. Growth Rate moderate

Environment:

Exposure outdoor full sun to partial shade in hot inland areas

Soil prefers well-drained, sandy soils

Hardiness some frost (zones 12, 13, 16, 17, 21-24)

Morphology:

Leaves very distinctive, cylindrical, blue-gray, fleshy, alternate  
or whorled, 3-4" long, curved and somewhat flattened on upper surface; leaves  
taper to a wedge-like point

Flowers creamy white, small heads with disk flowers only, held well  
above foliage - summer months

Fruit small achenes

Propagation: stem cuttings throughout the year

Usage: a very striking groundcover or border, valued for its  
blue-gray foliage and open growth habit; contrasts well with foliage color  
of other plants; best in warm, subtropical theme gardens, and containers

Landscape Care:

Watering little needed after establishment; prefers occasional deep  
soaking

Fertilizing none required

Pruning pinch or head back regularly to encourage density

Pests/Diseases root rot in poorly drained soils

Special Conditions

Origin: South Africa Family: Asteraceae