Scotch Moss

Sagina subulata 'Aurea'



Scotch Moss flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 1 inch

Spread: 12 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 3b

Ornamental Features

Scotch Moss's attractive tiny needle-like leaves emerge gold in spring, turning lime green in color the rest of the year on a plant with a spreading habit of growth. It features tiny white star-shaped flowers at the ends of the stems from mid spring to mid summer.

Landscape Attributes

Scotch Moss is an herbaceous evergreen perennial with a ground-hugging habit of growth. It brings an extremely fine and delicate texture to the garden composition and should be used to full effect.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and usually looks its best without pruning, although it will tolerate pruning. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spreading

Scotch Moss is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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



Scotch Moss foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Scotch Moss will grow to be only 1 inch tall at maturity, with a spread of 12 inches. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an evegreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. Consider covering it with a thick layer of mulch in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.