

Lakeshore Garden Centres

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Velvet Groundsel



Velvet Groundsel

Roldana petasitis

Height: 10 feet

Spread: 10 feet

Sunlight: ○ ●

Hardiness Zone: 9a

Other Names: form. *Senecio petasitis*, California Geranium

Group/Class: Groundsel Group

Description:

A large, sprawling evergreen shrub with large, roundish, velvety bright green leaves; deep burgundy flower buds open to display masses of bright yellow daisy flowers in winter and spring; prefers sheltered areas, leaves may be torn by wind

Ornamental Features

Velvet Groundsel features showy clusters of yellow daisy flowers with gold eyes held atop the branches from mid winter to mid spring, which emerge from distinctive burgundy flower buds. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive large round leaves emerge light green in spring, turning grayish green in colour with hints of silvery blue the rest of the year.

Landscape Attributes

Velvet Groundsel is a multi-stemmed evergreen perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its wonderfully bold, coarse texture can be very effective in a balanced garden composition.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, 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.



Velvet Groundsel flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Velvet Groundsel foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Velvet Groundsel is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Velvet Groundsel will grow to be about 10 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 10 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground. Although it is technically a woody plant, this plant can be expected to behave as a perennial in our climate if planted outdoors over the winter, usually regrowing from its base (crown) the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.



Velvet Groundsel
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. You may want to keep it away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. This species is not originally from North America, and parts of it are known to be toxic to humans and animals, so care should be exercised in planting it around children and pets..

Velvet Groundsel is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Its large size and upright habit of growth lend it for use as a solitary accent, or in a composition surrounded by smaller plants around the base and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden. Be aware that in our climate, most plants cannot be expected to survive the winter if left in containers outdoors, and this plant is no exception. Contact our experts for more information on how to protect it over the winter months.

This plant is not reliably hardy in our region, and certain restrictions may apply; contact the store for more information.