



**Candelilla**  
*Euphorbia antisyphilitica*

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Sunlight: ○ ●

Hardiness Zone: 7

Other Names: Leafless Spurge

**Description:**

An upright, leafless succulent that spreads slowly by suckering; white flowers appear in late winter and spring, on grassy, gray green stems; an interesting groundcover for a dry sunny area

**Ornamental Features**

Candelilla is clothed in stunning white star-shaped flowers with red centers along the branches from late winter to early spring. It has attractive grayish green evergreen foliage. The succulent grassy leaves are highly ornamental and remain grayish green throughout the winter.

**Landscape Attributes**

Candelilla is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, 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.

Candelilla is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

**Planting & Growing**

Candelilla will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 5 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 60 years or more.



*Candelilla*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in sandy soils. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is native to parts of 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. It can be propagated by division.

Candelilla makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants 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 grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.