Blackfoot Daisy

Melampodium leucanthum

Blackfoot Daisy flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 6 inches

Flower Height: 8 inches

Spread: 14 inches

Spacing: 12 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5a

Other Names: Plains Blackfoot Daisy, Rock Daisy, Arnica

Description:

A sturdy, mounding perennial that will do very well in rock gardens; white daisy flowers with gold centers over a neat mound of foliage throughout the season, with no need to deadhead spent blooms; heat and drought tolerant

Blackfoot Daisy in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Blackfoot Daisy is bathed in stunning fragrant white daisy flowers with gold eyes at the ends of the stems from early spring to mid fall. Its narrow leaves remain dark green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Blackfoot Daisy is an herbaceous perennial with a mounded form. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cut back to the ground in late winter before active growth resumes. It is a good choice for attracting birds, bees and butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Blackfoot Daisy is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Blackfoot Daisy will grow to be only 6 inches tall at maturity extending to 8 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 14 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 12 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 1 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any 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 type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is native to parts of North America.

Blackfoot Daisy is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers against which the thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.