White Star Creeper

Isotoma fluviatilis 'Alba'

White Star Creeper flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 1 inch

Flower Height: 2 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Spacing: 10 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 6a

Other Names: Matted Pratia, Swamp Isotome

Description:

A beautiful, matted groundcover with masses of pure white flowers in late spring; good for moist boggy sites; this variety maintains a low, even form throughout the season; tolerates foot traffic, great between pavers, or as a lawn substitute

Ornamental Features

White Star Creeper has masses of beautiful white star-shaped flowers with chartreuse eyes along the stems from late spring to late summer, which are most effective when planted in groupings. Its tiny pointy leaves remain green in color throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

White Star Creeper is an herbaceous evergreen perennial with a ground-hugging habit of growth. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spreading

White Star Creeper is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

White Star Creeper will grow to be only 1 inch tall at maturity extending to 2 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 18 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 10 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 5 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 prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. This plant should not require much in the way of fertilizing once established, although it may appreciate a shot of general-purpose fertilizer from time to time early in the growing season. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selected variety of a species 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. 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.

White Star Creeper is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its spreading habit of growth, it is ideally suited for use as a 'spiller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the edges where it can spill gracefully over the pot. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.