The Mustard Seed
Landscaping & Garden Centers

Common Baby's Breath

Gypsophila paniculata



Common Baby's Breath in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 2a

Description:

Billowing mounds of tiny, airy white flowers cover small, silver green foliage during the summer season; dainty flowers are ideal for fresh or dried arrangements; drought and salt tolerant, excellent for borders, beds and containers

Ornamental Features

Common Baby's Breath features airy plumes of white flowers at the ends of the stems from mid summer to early fall. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its grassy leaves remain silvery blue in color throughout the season.



Common Baby's Breath flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Common Baby's Breath is a dense herbaceous perennial with a mounded form. It brings an extremely fine and delicate texture to the garden composition and should be used to full effect.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spreading

Common Baby's Breath is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens

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Planting & Growing

Common Baby's Breath will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 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 should only be grown in full sunlight. 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 type, but has a definite preference for alkaline soils, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is not originally from North America.