Peter Cottontail Yarrow

Achillea ptarmica 'Peter Cottontail'

Peter Cottontail Yarrow in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 18 inches

Spread: 30 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 3a

Description:

Masses of double white blooms fill the plant all summer, with a look reminiscent of Baby's Breath, over a low, mounding habit of green foliage; low maintenance and easy to grow; a great addition to the garden or containers

Ornamental Features

Peter Cottontail Yarrow is smothered in stunning balls of white flowers at the ends of the stems from early summer to early fall. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its narrow leaves remain dark green in colour throughout the season.

Peter Cottontail Yarrow flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Peter Cottontail Yarrow is an 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 is a high maintenance plant that will require regular care and upkeep, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It is a good choice for attracting bees, butterflies and hummingbirds 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
- Self-Seeding

Peter Cottontail Yarrow is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Peter Cottontail Yarrow will grow to be about 18 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 30 inches. 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 does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to dry locations, and dislikes excessive moisture. 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 poor soils. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. 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.

Peter Cottontail Yarrow 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. 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.