Mountain Cabbage Tree

Cussonia paniculata ssp. sinuata

Height: 15 feet

Spread: 10 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 9a

Description:

A slow growing small tree, featuring compound leaves composed of a number of slender, sinuous, lobed leaflets at the end of long petioles; foliage is gray-green with bright gray reverses; attractive corky bark is fissured and thick; protect from frost



Mountain Cabbage Tree
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Mountain Cabbage Tree features dainty spikes of yellow flowers held atop the branches from early to late summer. It has attractive grayish green foliage with gray undersides and tinges of silver. The lobed compound leaves are highly ornamental and remain grayish green throughout the winter. The furrowed gray bark is extremely showy and adds significant winter interest.



Mountain Cabbage Tree foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Mountain Cabbage Tree is a multi-stemmed evergreen plant with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should never be pruned except to remove any dieback, as it tends not to take pruning well. It is a good choice for attracting birds to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Mountain Cabbage Tree is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Mountain Cabbage Tree will grow to be about 15 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 10 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 3 feet from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 years.

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 xeriscaping or the moisture-conserving landscape. Like most succulents and cacti, this plant prefers to grow in poor soils and should therefore never be fertilized. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America.

Mountain Cabbage Tree is a fine choice for the yard, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Its large size and upright habit of growth lend it for use as a solitary accent, or in a composition surrounded by smaller plants around the base 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.