Silver Saw Palmetto

Serenoa repens var. sericea



Silver Saw Palmetto
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 8 feet

Spread: 10 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 7b

Other Names: S. repens Cinerea, Sabal serrulatum, Fan Palm

Description:

This attractive native palm tolerates drought and adapts to a wide variety of soils; a less common silver variety that is a stunning garden or landscape accent; also great in containers or seaside gardens



Silver Saw Palmetto
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Silver Saw Palmetto features showy panicles of buttery yellow flowers with creamy white overtones at the ends of the branches in mid fall. It has attractive bluish-green foliage with hints of silver. The lobed palmate leaves are highly ornamental and remain bluish-green throughout the winter. The fruits are showy gold drupes with orange overtones and which fade to black over time, which are displayed in late fall.

Landscape Attributes

Silver Saw Palmetto is a multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other landscape plants with finer foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Silver Saw Palmetto is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Silver Saw Palmetto will grow to be about 8 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 10 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 1 foot 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 50 years or more.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. This plant does not require much in the way of fertilizing once established. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in sandy 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 native to parts of North America.

Silver Saw Palmetto makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants 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.