Great Desert Spoon

Dasylirion acrotrichum



Great Desert Spoon
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 5 feet

Flower Height: 15 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 8a

Other Names: Green Desert Spoon, Frayed Sotol

Description:

This sculptural plant bears narrow, green leaves arranged in dense, spherical rosettes; beautiful tall spikes of cream flowers in mid summer, after 7 to 10 years; good for hot, dry sites, borders, patios and containers; forms a woody trunk over time

Ornamental Features

Great Desert Spoon features bold spikes of white flowers with creamy white overtones rising above the foliage in mid summer. It has attractive creamy white-tipped lime green foliage. The serrated narrow leaves are highly ornamental and remain lime green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Great Desert Spoon is a multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a more or less rounded form. It lends an extremely fine and delicate texture to the landscape composition which can make it a great accent feature on this basis alone.

This shrub will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should not require much pruning, except when necessary, such as to remove dieback. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spiny

Great Desert Spoon is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Great Desert Spoon will grow to be about 5 feet tall at maturity extending to 15 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 5 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 60 years or more.

This shrub 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 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 sandy soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America.

Great Desert Spoon makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used 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.