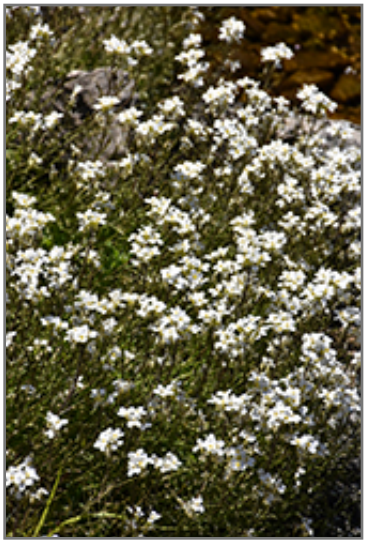
Wall Cress

Arabis caucasica



Wall Cress flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 8 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 2b

Other Names: Rock Cress

Description:

A drought tolerant, low mounded and compact selection that features deep green foliage and fragrant, white or pink blooms during the spring and into early summer; deadhead spent flowers; excellent performance in borders and rock gardens

Ornamental Features

Wall Cress is smothered in stunning lightly-scented white daisy flowers with yellow eyes at the ends of the stems from early to late spring. Its small deeply cut narrow leaves remain grayish green in colour throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Wall Cress is a dense herbaceous evergreen perennial with a ground-hugging habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Wall Cress is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Wall Cress will grow to be about 8 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 18 inches. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 8 years. As an evegreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

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 or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider covering it with a thick layer of mulch in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division.

Wall Cress is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its spreading habit of growth, it is ideally suited for use as a 'spiller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the edges where it can spill gracefully over the pot. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.