Cephalophyllum Ice Plant

Cephalophyllum pillansii



Cephalophyllum Ice Plant in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 5 inches

Spread: 12 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 9b

Description:

A compact, succulent shrub with creeping stems and long gray-green leaves that are cylindrical; foliage takes on reddish and purplish shades in sunlight; stunning yellow flowers in spring, opening only on sunny days; a great water-wise plant

Ornamental Features

Cephalophyllum Ice Plant features showy yellow daisy flowers with burgundy eyes rising above the foliage from early to late spring. It has attractive grayish green foliage with hints of powder blue. The narrow leaves are highly ornamental and remain grayish green throughout the winter. The red stems can be quite attractive.

Landscape Attributes

Cephalophyllum Ice Plant is a multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a ground-hugging 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 shrub, and should not require much pruning, except when necessary, such as to remove dieback. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Cephalophyllum Ice Plant is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Cephalophyllum Ice Plant will grow to be only 4 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 12 inches. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As this plant tends to go dormant in summer, it is best interplanted with late-season bloomers to hide the dying foliage.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist locations, and should do just fine under typical garden conditions. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. 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 rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America.

Cephalophyllum Ice Plant makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use 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 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.