



Better Plants. Better Advice. Better Results.



### Sweet Woodruff

*Galium odoratum*

Height: 8 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight: ● ●

Hardiness Zone: 2

Other Names: Asperula

#### Description:

A vigorous and spreading groundcover for a woodland or shade setting; attractive whorled foliage and tiny white flowers in spring; prefers organic, slightly acidic soils; tough yet quite delicate-looking, putty in the hands of a talented garden designer.

#### Ornamental Features

Sweet Woodruff features dainty lightly-scented white star-shaped flowers at the ends of the stems in mid spring. Its fragrant narrow leaves remain light green in color throughout the year.

#### Landscape Attributes

Sweet Woodruff is a dense herbaceous evergreen perennial with a ground-hugging habit of growth. It brings an extremely fine and delicate texture to the garden composition and should be used to full effect.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. 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;

- Spreading

Sweet Woodruff is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Groundcover



*Sweet Woodruff in bloom*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



*Sweet Woodruff flowers*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



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### Planting & Growing

Sweet Woodruff will grow to be about 8 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an evergreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

This plant does best in partial shade to full shade. Keep it well away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type, but has a definite preference for acidic soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in both summer and winter to conserve soil moisture and protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is native to parts of North America. It can be propagated by division.



Moana Lane Garden Center & Corporate Office  
1100 W. Moana Lane  
Reno, NV 89509  
(775) 825-0600  
(775) 825-0602 – Corporate Office

South Virginia St. Garden Center  
11301 S. Virginia Street  
Reno, NV 89511  
(775) 853-1319

Pyramid Way Garden Center  
3397 Pyramid Way  
Sparks, NV 89431  
(775) 425-4300

Landscape Services & Design Center  
1190 W. Moana Lane  
Reno, NV 89509  
(775) 825-0602 ext. 134  
NV Lic. #3379A, D & CA Lic. #317448

[www.moananursery.com](http://www.moananursery.com)