Town & Country gardens

Spring Cinquefoil

Potentilla neumanniana



Spring Cinquefoil flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 3 inches

Flower Height: 6 inches

Spread: 6 inches

Spacing: 5 inches

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Potentilla verna, Potentilla tabernaemontana

Description:

A useful plant for rock gardens and slopes, forming low creeping mats of compound strawberry-like leaves topped with dainty golden-yellow flowers in spring; an elegant plant that needs to be seen up close

Ornamental Features

Spring Cinquefoil has cymes of yellow buttercup flowers with gold eyes dangling from the stems from mid to late spring, which are interesting on close inspection. Its small serrated oval compound leaves remain green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Spring Cinquefoil is an herbaceous perennial with a mounded form. 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 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. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spreading

Spring Cinquefoil is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Spring Cinquefoil will grow to be only 3 inches tall at maturity extending to 6 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 6 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 5 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division.

Spring Cinquefoil is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers against which the thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden. Be aware that in our climate, most plants cannot be expected to survive the winter if left in containers outdoors, and this plant is no exception. Contact our experts for more information on how to protect it over the winter months.