Variegated Serissa

Serissa japonica 'Variegata'

Variegated Serissa flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 12 inches

Spread: 10 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 8

Other Names: Snowrose, Snowbush, syn. Serissa foetida

Description:

Very tiny, dense dark green foliage with a yellow or cream edge, covers this slow growing miniature variety; buds open to pretty white trumpet flowers; used extensively in bonsai or as a house plant; a lovely garden accent for a small area

Variegated Serissa foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Variegated Serissa features showy white trumpet-shaped flowers along the branches from early spring to late fall. It has attractive dark green foliage edged in creamy white with hints of buttery yellow. The tiny glossy oval leaves are highly ornamental and remain dark green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Variegated Serissa is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. It lends an extremely fine and delicate texture to the landscape composition which should be used to full effect.

This shrub will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Variegated Serissa is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Variegated Serissa will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 10 inches. It has a low canopy. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. To help this plant achive its best flowering performance, periodically apply a flower-boosting fertilizer from early spring through into the active growing season. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. 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 is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Variegated Serissa makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers and foliage against which the larger thriller plants stand out. 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.