

Santolina chamaecyparissus

Cotton Lavender



Hardiness: zone 6-9

Height: 30-60 cm

Spread: 60 cm—1 m

Sunlight: Full sun

Flowers: Summer

Deer, rabbit and drought tolerant

General Description:

Santolina chamaecyparissus, commonly called lavender cotton or gray santolina, is a small, semi-woody, tender sub-shrub with aromatic, evergreen, silver-gray foliage. It typically grows in a mound to 2' tall spreading to 3' wide. It is native to the Mediterranean area (southern Europe and northern Africa). Pinnately divided leaves have a rough texture and musky fragrance. Button-like, 3/4-inch wide, bright yellow flowers (rays absent) of this aster family member bloom in summer atop stalks rising well above the foliage to 6" tall. Foliage has historically been used as an insecticide and moth repellent.

Care Notes: Easily grown in average, dry to medium, well-drained soils in full sun. Plants appreciate regular moisture during the first year, but tolerate drought once roots are established. Plants perform well in limey soils. Plants tolerate poor dry soils. Avoid rich soils. Avoid wet soils. Cut back in spring to maintain compact shape and encourage new growth. This plant may be grown as an annual.