

# BRANCHING OUT

A California Native Plant Introduction Program



*Lessingia filaginifolia* 'Silver Carpet'  
Silver Carpet California Beach-aster



The Santa Barbara Botanic Garden's Plant Introduction Program "Branching Out" is dedicated to increasing awareness, appreciation, and availability of outstanding California native plants for landscapes and gardens.

BOTANICAL NAME \_\_\_\_\_ *Lessingia filaginifolia*

CULTIVAR NAME \_\_\_\_\_ 'Silver Carpet'

COMMON NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Silver Carpet California Beach-aster

FAMILY NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Asteraceae

ORIGIN \_\_\_\_\_ A selection of *L. filaginifolia* collected by Horticulturist Carol Bornstein from coastal bluffs exposed to ocean spray in Monterey County.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION \_\_\_\_\_ 'Silver Carpet' is a dense, 1 ft tall by 3-6 ft wide mounded perennial. Its white-tomentose foliage creates a silver appearance. A profusion of 1 inch pink-lavender flowers cover the mound in late summer.

WATER REQUIREMENTS \_\_\_\_\_ Drought tolerant along the immediate coast, best with occasional summer water inland.

SOIL REQUIREMENTS \_\_\_\_\_ Wide soil tolerance. Despite its origins in sandy soils, tolerates heavy clay.

EXPOSURE REQUIREMENTS \_\_\_\_\_ Flowering and form are best in full sun (plants becomes leggy in shade).

PESTS AND DISEASES \_\_\_\_\_ No known problems.

HARDINESS \_\_\_\_\_ Zones 7-9, 14-24. Hardy to 20 F. Grows well in both coastal and hot inland areas.

LANDSCAPE VALUE \_\_\_\_\_ 'Silver Carpet' makes an effective groundcover, especially when allowed to spill down a slope or over a low wall. Its year-round, handsome white foliage blends well with other plants, and its summer blossoms provide welcome cool color in a season when warmer-toned natives—California fuchsias and goldenrods, for example—prevail.

PROPAGATION \_\_\_\_\_ Easy from cuttings. Can become leggy in containers if grown in rich soil.

SALES POTENTIAL \_\_\_\_\_ For gardeners seeking late summer or fall color on a water-thrifty plant, 'Silver Carpet' delivers. Foliage attractive year-round as well.

NURSERY AVAILABILITY \_\_\_\_\_ El Nativo Growers (<http://www.elnativogrowers.com/>)  
 Matilija Nursery (<http://www.matilijanursery.com/>)  
 Native Sons Nursery (<http://nativeson.com/home2.html>)  
 San Marcos Growers (<http://www.smgrowers.com/>)  
 Suncrest Nurseries (<http://www.suncrestnurseries.com/>)

For more information about this program, contact the Garden at 805-682-4726, ext. 114 or 148. Or, write to the Plant Introduction Program at 1212 Mission Canyon Road, Santa Barbara, California 93105.



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