Cotton Lavender

Santolina chamaecyparissus



Height: 45cm (18in)

Suitable for: Sandy soil in a sunny position.

Summary: Cotton lavender is a small and strongly aromatic shrub with very pale grey woolly leaves. It is traditionally clipped into a hedge and used for edging in knot gardens. Unclipped plants produce bright yellow button-like flowers in summer.

More information:

Cotton lavender has been popular since the 16th Century and the leaves have a chamomile like aroma. The dried foliage is used to blend in herbal tobaccos, and both leaves and flowers are a favourite in pot pourri.

If planted at 20cm spacing, in a staggered row, cotton lavender will clip into a neat hedge and has been used in knot gardens and to edge borders for centuries.

Dried cotton lavender leaves are a successful moth deterrent.

> Cut 10cm squares of muslin or cotton material and place 1tbs of the dried herb in the centre along with 1 tsp. crushed cinnamon stick to act as preservative.
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> Tie up with ribbon to make the moth bags.
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> Herbal mixtures can be used in the bags by adding equal quantities of **dried mint, lavender, sage, rosemary or thyme leaves** to the **cotton lavender**.

In medieval times cotton lavender had medicinal uses as a remedy for poisonous bites and internal parasites.