Rodgersia

Rodgersia podophylla



Rodgersia in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 3 feet

Flower Height: 4 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Spacing: 24 inches

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 5a

Description:

Broadly ovate leaves of green with coppery tinges throughout the summer that become more intense with more light; flowers are creamy white in lacy panicles hovering just over the coarse foliage, providing beautiful contrast



Rodgersia flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Rodgersia features airy plumes of white flowers with creamy white overtones rising above the foliage from late spring to mid summer. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive large serrated oval palmate leaves emerge khaki (brownish-green) in spring, turning emerald green in colour with showy coppery-bronze variegation. As an added bonus, the foliage turns a gorgeous coppery-bronze in the fall.

Landscape Attributes

Rodgersia is an herbaceous perennial with a rigidly upright and towering form. Its wonderfully bold, coarse texture can be very effective in a balanced garden composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Rodgersia is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Vertical Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Bog Gardens



Rodgersia
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Rodgersia will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity extending to 4 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 3 feet. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 24 inches apart. It grows at a slow 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 does best in partial shade to shade. It prefers to grow in moist to wet soil, and will even tolerate some standing water. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone over the growing season to conserve soil moisture. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division.