

## CERASTIUM PRODUCTION AND CONSUMER CARE

### INTRODUCTION

- Common name: Snow-in-Summer
- Scientific name: *Cerastium tomentosum*
- Perennial native to northern temperate areas around the world
- Grows 6-12" high and 9-12" wide
- Forms a low mat of grayish leaves
- Often used as a ground cover
- Spreads via runners to fill in areas
- Small white star-shaped flowers form in late spring and early summer
- Hardy in zones 3-7

### GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Grows well in dry, sandy, well-drained media
- Prefers full sun
- Grows well in acidic, neutral, or alkaline media

### PROPAGATION

- Best propagated by division in spring or fall
- Space new plants 9-12" apart
- Remove spent blooms to prevent self-seeding

### DISORDERS

- Root rot (*Phytophthora* sp.)
  - Plant wilts and eventually dies
  - Remove infected plants
- If media is kept well-drained, disease problems are infrequent

### CONSUMER CARE

- Flower stems should be removed after blooming
- Spreads easily; can crowd out other plants if located poorly
- Can be used as a lawn substitute, especially on steep slopes or in rocky areas
- Can be mown on a high setting
- Easily grown in tubs or containers

### CULTIVARS AND SPECIES

- *Cerastium tomentosum*
  - 'Yo-yo': grayish-white foliage

### References

- <http://www.perennials.com/seeplant.html?item=1.130.050>
- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cerastium>
- <http://www.mobot.org/gardinghelp/plantfinder/plant.asp?code=H590>

## Reviewed by:

Dr. Yin-Tung Wang  
Research and Development  
Matsui Nursery  
Salinas, CA

Dr. Mike Orzolek  
Professor of Horticulture  
Penn State University

Dr. Frank Flora  
National Program Leader  
Nutrition, Food Safety, and Quality  
USDA-ARS

*Mention of trade names does not constitute an endorsement by the Maryland Cooperative Extension, University of Maryland, College Park, or University of Maryland, Eastern Shore.*

## **CERASTIUM PRODUCTION AND CONSUMER CARE**

by

**Thomas M. Blessington, David L. Clement, and Kevin G. Williams**  
Central Maryland Research and Education Center  
University of Maryland

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, University of Maryland, College Park, and local governments. Cheng-i Wei, Director of Maryland Cooperative Extension, University of Maryland.

The University of Maryland is equal opportunity. The University's policies, programs, and activities are in conformance with pertinent Federal and State laws and regulations on nondiscrimination regarding race, color, religion, age, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, marital or parental status, or disability. Inquiries regarding compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Educational Amendments; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990; or related legal requirements should be directed to the Director of Human Resources Management, Office of the Dean, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Symons Hall, College Park, MD 20742.