

## CARING AND SHARING - GARDEN BENEFITS AND CARE

*Coreopsis* 'Crème Brûlée' is the latest development in "Threadleaf Coreopsis", so called because of its fine, narrow foliage. 'Crème Brûlée' upgrades 'Moonbeam', the standard by which all other Threadleaf types are judged, with larger, deeper yellow flowers and greater vigor. Flowers have attractive serrated petals. Foliage is brighter green and demonstrates better resistance to powdery mildew.

Flowers appear not just above the canopy, as in 'Moonbeam', but also farther down the stems, among the lacy leaves, for a fuller appearance.

**Bloom Season & Habit.** 'Crème Brûlée' flowers all summer and into fall, from late June into October in Zone 6, on neatly mounded, robust plants. A moderate-to-hard cutback late in summer will rejuvenate the plant and cause it to resume flowering.

**Location.** Full sun. USDA Hardiness Zones 4 to 9. AHS Heat Zones 12 to 3.

**Size.** Twenty inches tall by 35 inches wide. Plant one or two plants per square yard.

**Culture.** They don't get much easier than this. 'Crème Brûlée' is remarkably self-sufficient, thriving in most well-drained soils in full sun. In late summer, a moderate to hard cutback will promote re-flowering into early fall, and also helps promote basal branching.

## KNOWING AND GROWING - TIPS FOR PRODUCERS

The increased vigor of 'Crème Brûlée' means gallons are filled, flowering and shippable faster than *Coreopsis* 'Moonbeam'. You may find it necessary to cut plants back in the pot early in summer to control stretch, particularly in pot-to-pot situations. Another cutback late in the season will be beneficial, to rejuvenate the plant and encourage reblooming for fall sales.

## FAMILY AND FRIENDS - HISTORY AND COMPANION PLANTS

*Coreopsis* is surely among the most versatile plants in cultivation. The predominant flower color of the genus is yellow or gold, but various types bloom in a range from white to pink to deep red. The common name comes from the small dark hooked seed which resembles, to some eyes, a tiny black insect.

'Crème Brûlée' is perfectly suited to the front of borders and patio containers. Looks terrific with Ornamental Grasses, especially *Pennisetum*. Makes a fine companion to other varieties in the genus, such as 'Limerock Ruby' or 'Sweet Dreams', and harmonizes well with perennials such as *Eryngium* 'Sapphire Blue'. Equally effective are pairings with spike flowers such as Veronica, or *Salvia* 'Indigo' and 'May Night'. Daisy-type flowers like *Leucanthemum* 'Snowcap' (Shasta Daisy) make a cheerful combination, and *Heuchera* 'Bressingham Bronze' serves as a striking accent.

