

GREEN THUMB GARDENING



By CHRISTINE COLE

## GARDEN SILVERWARE

Garden Silverware is akin to the kitchen silverware - the foundation of a great place setting and a necessity to enjoying your garden to its fullest. Unlike other garden plant.. most of the silver plants do not produce showy flowers. However, they still provide a rich display throughout the season. Silver foliage plants are most useful to accent other bright colored flowers and plants. Being silver in color they look excellent when planted with blue, pink and/or white flowering plants.

Choose from the following plants to provide annual, perennial or shrubby silverware:

Dusty Miller is an old-favorite annual that only grows 6-8 inches tall within the summer season. The lacy-leaf, Featherleaf Dusty Miller has finely cut showy foliage. Although it is very attractive it is more difficult to obtain but much worth the effort.

Artemesias are pewter colored accents for the perennial garden. Every year they produce fragrant silver foliage 12 to 36 inches tall. Silver Mound is the neatest and most prized for its compact 12 inch mounds. It makes a great filler between other plants or as a border. Lamb's Ear is also a perennial that forms a low carpet of spade shaped leaves that are fairly thick and very velvety to the touch. Very much like you a lamb's ear.

Russian Olive is on a large scale. It could be called a large shrub or a small tree reaching a height of about 20 feet at maturity. Their shiny silver foliage is unmistakable. In the fall small silver beads hang decoratively on the tree.

Each week Christine Cole of Tuitman's Garden Centre and Landscaping, Highway 25, 1 mile south of Acton, 853-2480, will be presenting helpful tips and information to assist you in creating your garden showplace!

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