

Green Lavender Cotton, *Olive Herb*

GENERAL

Origin	: Mediterranean
Vigour	: slow-growing
Humidity	: semi-humid, very humid
Propagation	: sowing and pricking out, cuttings
Maintenance	: moderate

CONDITIONS

Urban climate	: resistant
Dessication	: vulnerable
Stagnant water	: vulnerable
Irrigation	: medium
Salinity/ppm	: moderate (2000 ppm)
Hardiness	: -18°C

SHAPE

Type	: sub-shrub
Height	: 0.3 m-0.7 m
Spread	: 0.4 m-0.9 m
Foliage	: evergreen

FLOWER

Colour	: pale yellow
Size	: 0.6 cm - 1 cm
Period	: June - August
Smell	: scented, aroma, moderate, leaf, spicy

FRUIT

Type of fruit	: achene
Fruit size	: 0.1 cm - 0.2 cm

*Santolina rosmarinifolia* is a slow growing subshrub and herb that originally comes from the Mediterranean, northwest Africa, Portugal and central Spain. It is called by its common name Lavender Cotton or Olive Herb. The evergreen foliage is deep green. The leaves are lanceolate and entire, and alternately arranged. As the name says, its leaves are comparable with *Rosmarinus officinalis*. The pale-yellow, knob-like flowers, appear in summer with a size of about 1 cm. The fruits are 0.1-cm nutlets. Propagation is by sowing and cuttings. The herb requires medium irrigation with low salinity. *S. rosmarinifolia* prefers penetrable, limey soil, and a sunny location. Because of its evergreen foliage, it grows better in locations with sufficient humidity. Maintenance is low: once in a while, pruning is required to create a compact shape. In landscape design, it can be used as a groundcover, in groups or massed planting, as a low hedge or border plant, and also in rock or steppe gardens. This bee-attracting herb will be effective in urban areas, park planting, public open spaces, in pedestrian precincts, private gardens, in containers and as a topiary plant. It is rarely seen in Arriyadh, and is not used as often as its relative, *Santolina chamaecyparissus*. It can be recommended for sheltered garden areas because of its fresh appearance and spicy fragrance.

