



Sweet Woodruff

Galium odoratum

Madder Family (Rubiaceae)

Zones: 4-8

Full to Partial Shade

Moderate Water

Location: Floral Walk, Fragrance Garden, Medicinal Garden, Orangerie, Water Pavilion

This attractive perennial groundcover will grow well in partially shaded to full shade locations, such as a forest floor. In late spring, fragrant white flowers are borne in small terminal inflorescences in such abundance that they mask the foliage. Both hummingbirds and butterflies are attracted to the flowers.

As with most groundcovers, Galium propagates easily from division by rhizomes and stolons. Sweet Woodruff spreads 18" wide and reach 4" to 10" tall and has attractive whorled leaves. This plant rarely has pest or disease problems, and actually has long been used as an insect repellant.

Sweet Woodruff has been used for a variety of ailments, including liver problems and jaundice; a tea made from leaves is used to ease stomachaches. Sweet Woodruff foliage has been used in some wines, perfumes and potpourris. You can also use Sweet Woodruff as a natural plant dye; the leaves will produce a light brown dye color and the roots produce a reddish dye color.