Artemisia schmidtiana 'Nana' - Silvermound Artemisia, Angels-Hair, or Wormwood (Asteraceae)

Artemisia schmidtiana 'Nana' is a silver-foliaged, fine-textured, mounding, perennial that serves as an excellent edging plant.

FEATURES
Form
-small herbaceous perennial
-maturing at about 1' tall x 1.5' wide
-spreading mound growth habit

Culture
-full sun to partial sun
-placement in moist, well-drained, relatively infertile soils in full sun prevents excessive vertical vegetative growth, which will usually keep the center of the foliage mound from unattractively opening up and separating by mid-summer
-if placed in fertile soils, the foliage may grow from 1-1.5' tall; in this case, clump splitting can be prevented or delayed by shearing the foliage back halfway in July, before flowering begins
-tolerant of poor soils, dry soils, heat, and drought
-propagated by crown division or by rooted stem cuttings
-Daisy Family, with stem rot or foliage rust under humid conditions being the 2 primary disease problems, and with no significant pest problems
-moderately available in containers

Foliage
-alternate, silvery-green tomentose leaves arise from short stems, and are twice palmately divided into linear segments of extremely fine foliage texture
-autumn color remains silvery, until quickly dying back to the crown with the initial frosts

Flowers
-inflorescences are silver in bud and yellow-white in flower, are small, sparse to non-existent, may be unnoticed above the silver foliage, are ornamentally insignificant, and bloom in Aug. (if at all)

Fruits
-ornamentally insignificant

Twigs
-not applicable
Trunk
-not applicable

USAGE
Function
-edging, specimen, border, mass planting, rock garden, or focal point mounding perennial
Texture
-very fine texture
-thick density

Assets
-silver-colored, fine-textured foliage in a spreading mound form
-works well as a neutral spacer or framing plant, in combination with perennials whose flowers are mostly in the cool color range (pink, lavender, blue, purple, and even scarlet to maroon)
-fairly drought tolerant

Liabilities
-foliage often splits apart in the center of the clump by mid-summer for mature-size clumps
-foliage may rot or rust under high humidity conditions

Habitat
-Zones 3 to 7
-Native to Japan

SELECTIONS

Alternates
-herbaceous plants with silvery-gray foliage
(Anthemis tinctoria, Artemisia species, Cerastium tomentosum, Helichrysum petiolare, Perovskia atriplicifolia, Stachys byzantina, etc.)

Variants
-Artemisia schmidtiana 'Nana' (also known as 'Silver Mound') - the standard form available, as described throughout this text; this is the only common Artemisia that has a prostrate growth habit, and is one of the few that is not invasive by underground rhizomes
-several species, cultivars, and hybrids of Artemisia exist, usually noteworthy as silver- or gray-foliaged perennials of various upright growth habits and medium to fine textures, often used as foliage perennials that mix well with cooler-colored perennials (those with pink, lavender, blue, or purple flowers, or even scarlet or maroon among the semi-warm colors)