

Rue

Ruta graveolens



Rue (*Ruta graveolens*) is an evergreen herb or small shrub with bluish-green leaves. The plant has a clumping habit, growing to 20-30 inches tall. It does best in full to part sun, with at least 6 to 7 hours of sunlight per day, and well-drained soil. It will even thrive in extremely dry conditions once established, but over-watering will kill the plant. It's hardy from upper Zone 6 and warmer. There's no need to fertilize the plant, it's perfectly happy in very poor soil. Although some winters we have hard freezes that can last several days Rue stands its ground. A long-lasting hard freeze can make the plant droopy, but as soon as temperatures warm, the plant perks back up. Deer & rabbit resistant. If for no other reason, grow Rue as a favored host plant for both the Black Swallowtail and the Giant Swallowtail butterfly caterpillars.