



# Shemya Germplasm dusty miller

## *Artemisia stelleriana*

### Selected Class Release “Natural”

## Uses: Landscape Plant

## Alaska

### Background Information

*Artemisia stelleriana* grows naturally in sunny, sandy conditions. It is found in coastal areas and is tolerant of ocean spray. It is a composite and perennial (Plants for a Future, 2000).

Its beauty comes from the fine pubescence on the intricately lobed leaves. These white hairs reflect the sun and provide insulation in the winter.

***Shemya Germplasm dusty miller***  
**Plant Identification Number: 9097722**

Shemya Germplasm dusty miller was collected on Shemya, Alaska, by Stoney Wright in 1995 (Wright, 2006). Shemya is an island in the Aleutian chain.

This native herb is a Selected Class Release by the Alaska Plant Materials Center (PMC). This means it has been grown and harvested at the PMC in Palmer, Alaska, and continues to preserve its excellent performance.

Shemya Germplasm dusty miller is recommended for use in landscaping because it is a beautiful plant and easy to grow.

This germplasm was collected on the sandy coastline of Shemya. It grows well in dry, sunny places.



Map from Hultén, 1968.  
Used with the permission of Stanford University Press.



### Distribution

*Artemisia stelleriana* is considered by some authorities to be native to Alaska and critically imperiled (Murray, 2006). Hultén describes it as native to the western tip of the Aleutians and eastern Asia (Hultén, 1968).

Wright (2006) hypothesizes that dusty miller was brought to Shemya by the Aleuts from Kamchatka, Russia. It grows well in cultivation. It is not considered an invasive herb (Murray, 2006).

**Shemya Germplasm dusty miller seed is maintained by the Alaska Plant Materials Center for commercial production.**



# Shemya Germplasm dusty miller

## Shemya Germplasm dusty miller for Alaska Landscape Purposes

Shemya displays a beautiful mixture of light green and white coloration. It is hardy in Alaskan climates. It is a perennial and will spread via its rhizomes.



*Artemisia stelleriana* seed.  
~723,445 seeds per pound

### Requirements:

sun  
well-drained, sandy soil  
infrequent watering

## To Produce Shemya

Shemya germinates easily by seed. Either plant seed directly into beds or plant the seed shallowly in pots inside in the early spring. When roots are fully developed, transplant it outside.

Mature plants of Shemya can be divided in the spring or fall. Pot up in a shady location until roots are well established. Plant in a full sun location, with well-drained sandy soil. Water as needed.



*Shemya in the landscaping  
around the main building at the  
Alaska Plant Materials Center, Palmer.*

## Interesting Notes:

Other common names for this plant are old woman, beach wormwood, and hoary sagebrush—all referring to the characteristics of its leaves.

It was originally discovered in Alaska by Georg Wilhelm Steller, a naturalist and explorer. Many species in Alaska are named after Steller.

## References

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Plants For A Future: Database Search Results. 2000. *Artemisia stelleriana*. [http://www.ibiblio.org/pfaf/cgi-bin/arr\\_html?Artemisia+stelleriana](http://www.ibiblio.org/pfaf/cgi-bin/arr_html?Artemisia+stelleriana).

USDA, NRCS National Plant Data Center, 2004. *Old Woman Artemisia stelleriana* Bess, <http://plants.usda.gov>.

Wright, S. 2006. *Personal discussion*. Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Agriculture, Plant Materials Center, Palmer, Alaska.

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