

Cineraria maritima Linn.

Syn. *Senecio maritima* DC.

Fam. Asteraceae

Hindi name	Cineraria
Trade name	Dusty miller, Silver Dust
Parts used	Leaves



Flowers of *Cineraria maritima*

Morphological Characteristics

Plants are usually annual herbs, but in suitable growing conditions turn into perennials. Roots are branched. Tap root is yellow in colour in young plants, but on maturity turn into light brown. Stem is erect, branched, solid and cylindrical, covered by woolly white hairs and appears silvery in colour. Leaves are cauline; 8.5-9.5X6.5-7.5 cm in size, surface woolly, silvery and white in colour with unicostate reticulate venation and petiolate. Petiole 3.0-3.5 cm long, exstipulate. The leaves are growing above ground, ovate spatulate, but on maturity these become pinnatifid with oblong and obtuse segments; lobes narrow at the base, but widening and toothed towards the apex.

Floral Characteristics

Inflorescence is a capitulum, 9-13 mm in diameter and arranged in corymbose branched raceme. Each capitulum is subtended by 12-14 involucre. Capitulum consists of two types of florets: ray and disc florets. Ray florets are peripheral, pistillate, zygomorphic, and epigynous. Pappus is hairy. Petals are 5, gamopetalous, ligulate and yellow in colour. Disc florets are in central, bisexual, actinomorphic, epigynous, tubular, aestivation valvate and yellow in colour. Stamens are 5, epipetalous, syngenesious, ditheous, introrse and opening by longitudinal



Transplanting stage of the seedlings

Planting in the Field

- **Land Preparation and Fertilizer Application:** Before planting the seedlings, the land should be ploughed and harrowed several times and leveled. Weeds, roots and stubbles are removed. During the cultivation, no chemical manure is applied and only farmyard manure is used. For good growth of the plants approximately 10 t/ha farmyard is required that can be divided into two doses of 5 t/ha each. First application should be just before the transplanting and second before flowering.
- **Transplanting and Optimum Spacing:** Seedlings should be transplanted in the field in late January or early February when they are about 5.0 cm tall. Immediately after transplanting, the fields should be properly irrigated. Plants exhibited good growth when the inter plant spacing in rows was 30 cm apart.
- **Intercropping System:** *C. maritima* plants grow usually upto 90 cm tall and require ample sunlight for its proper growth and flowering. Therefore, the plant for intercropping should be short and not of spreading type so that the plants may get proper sunlight. Some of the suitable plants that can be grown as intercrop are Kalmegh (*Andrographis paniculata*), Sadabahar (*Catharanthus roseus*), Sarpagandha (*Rauwolfia serpentina*), *Mentha* species, Garlic (*Allium sativum*), Onion (*Allium cepa*) and Chili (*Capsicum annum*) etc.



Establishment of young plants in the field

