

Friday, March 1, 2024

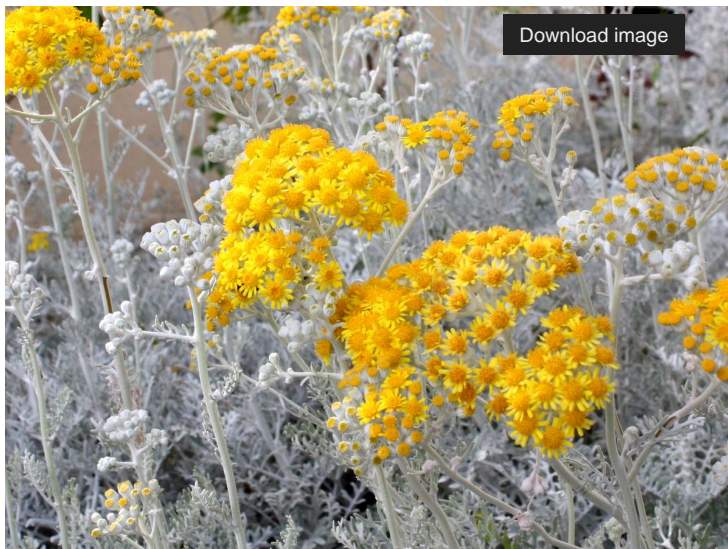
Jacobaea maritima

Scientific name: *Jacobaea maritima* (L.) Pelsner & Meijden

Family: *Asteraceae*

Common name: Silver Ragwort, Dusty Miller

Its former name was *Senecio cineraria*, and some people still know it by that name. It seems that the name of the genus is due to the apostle St. James; that of the species, evidently, refers to the fact that it lives near the sea. It is a highly branched perennial herb that can grow to a height of almost a metre. It is native to the Mediterranean basin, although it is cultivated in many other temperate areas of the world.



The leaves are doubly lobed and have a soft, velvety texture. Overall it is whitish-grey in colour, although the upper side of the leaf is more greenish than the underside. The yellow flower heads are about two centimetres long and are very attractive to a wide variety of insects. The flower heads are the inflorescences commonly known as daisies.

Silver Ragwort is used as an ornamental plant because it is very decorative and provides a colour contrast with other plants due to its silvery leaves. It favours a full sun situation to provide generous flowering, which lasts from spring to summer. It appreciates rich, well-drained soil and, although it tolerates coastal salinity, it is not very tolerant of prolonged drought. It is a toxic plant, so some caution should be exercised with pets. It can be seen in the garden of the senses at La Concepción.