

Aruncus dioicus

North American Native



Aruncus (a-run-kus)
From the Greek word, aringos, meaning beard of a goat.

dioicus (dee-o-ee-kus)
meaning that there are female and male flowers on separate plants.



Zones: 3 – 7



Flower Color: Creamy -White

Height: 3 – 6'

Spacing: 2 – 4'

About the Species:

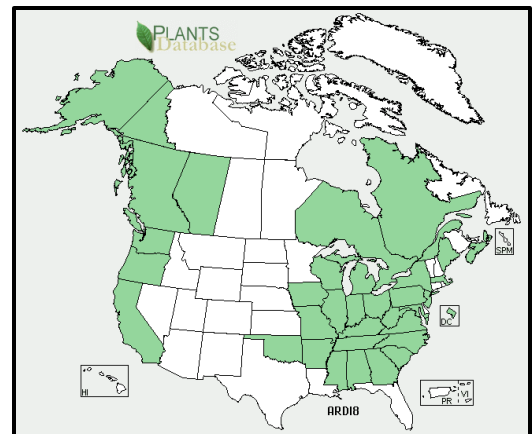
Common Name: Goat's Beard

Family: Rosaceae

Goat's Beard prefers moist, rich soil with plenty of organic matter and can tolerate full sun in constant moisture. This almost shrub-like plant is bold and will make quite a statement in the garden. Goat's Beard looks a lot like a giant *Astilbe*, but it is actually related to the *Spiraeas*. It has a bold texture that somehow seems to look dainty. The very large flowers will bloom in April and May. Goat's Beard may be slow to become established, but once established, transplanting can be difficult so selecting the proper garden site is important. This rhizomatous plant, with a medium growth rate, can form large clumps to 6 feet making it difficult to divide.

Habitat: Found in moist woodlands, meadows and bluffs of North America.

In the Garden Group along streams or around water gardens, or use as an excellent background plant, or specimen. Goat's Beard is also useful in large containers, perennial borders, and in transition areas between landscaped areas and woodlands. Flower heads can be dried by hanging them upside down in a warm, dark room such as a closet. *Aruncus* combine well with *Aquilegia*, *Ferns*, *Mertensia*, *Polemonium* and *Asarum*.



USDA Plants Database



The Goat Herders

Travis and Kevin, goat herding settlers of the Appalachian Mountains (and self-proclaimed botanists), were out in the hills tending to their goats one day. Enjoying the local flora while tromping across the hills they observed a tall plant with white flowers that reminded them of their goats' beards, resembling the long white "whiskers" that hang down from the goat's chins. Upon further investigation, they were able to identify the plant as *Aruncus dioicus*. They had learned that the Greeks had given this plant the common name "Goat's Beard" because the flowers reminded them of their goats. One case of the same "common" name developing many worlds away.