Drooping Leucothoe  
(*Leucothoe fontanesiana*)

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**Summary:**  
Foliage: Evergreen broadleaf  
Height: 6 feet  
Spread: 6 feet  
Shape: Mound with arching branches  

Drooping leucothoe is a beautiful and graceful evergreen medium-sized shrub with lustrous, dark green foliage. White bell-shaped flowers bloom in the spring. Its arching branches give it a fountain-like effect. This plant is not suitable for sunny or dry locations.

**Plant Needs:**  
Zone: 5 to 8  
Light: Partial shade  
Moisture: Wet or moist  
Soil Type: Sandy, loam, or clay loam  
pH Range: 3.7 to 5.5

**Functions:**  
Suggested uses for this plant include border, naturalizing, and screen.

**Planting Notes:**  
Prefers acid and well drained soil.  
Plant in a shady location protected from winter wind.  
Does not tolerate drought. Water thoroughly each week during hot, dry weather.

**Care:**  
Occasional pruning can be done after spring flowering.  
Remove the oldest stems at ground level as needed.

**Problems:**  
Leaf spot and various fungi can be a problem.

**Alternatives:**  
Consult local garden centers historic or public gardens and arboreta regarding cultivars and related species that grow well in your area.

**Cultivars of *Leucothoe fontanesiana*:**  
`Scarletta` has beautiful, shiny, dark green foliage that becomes a deep, plum-purple color in cold weather. This cultivar is subject to leaf spot.  
`Girard’s Rainbow` has new foliage that emerges white, pink, and copper; these colors fade with time.

**Comments:**  
Drooping leucothoe is a slow-growing plant with spreading, arching branches. It grows best in cool, shady, moist environments.

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