

## 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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