

Botanical Name: *Melampodium leucanthum*

Common Name: Blackfoot Daisy, Plains Blackfoot, Rock Daisy



Family: Acanthaceae

Native Distribution: Arizona to Texas, southern plains states, and N Mexico on rocky slopes and flat soils

Plant Size: 6-12" tall, twice as wide low, mounded perennial

Flowers: 1" wide daisy-like flower heads of 8-10 broad white rays surrounding a small yellow central disk, blooming almost year-round except Dec/Jan

Foliage: Long and narrow grayish-green leaves, opposite, and narrowly linear to lanceolate

Site Preferences: Full sun to partial shade, well drained soil, low water use

Landscape Uses: Around Phoenix, use as groundcover, mixed with other perennials, scented gardens, butterfly gardens, rock gardens, containers and planters.

Other Stuff:

- Similar to the *Zinnia acerosa* (White Zinnia) which has just 4-6 broad white rays.
- Breaks very easily so must be handled with care when transplanting.
- So named because the black seeds look like a foot.
- Underside of petal has green or pink banding.
- Hardy to 0°F.
- Prefer elevations from 2,000 to 5,000'.
- Smells like honey so attracts wildlife.
- Grows solitary and terminal on slender stalks.