



The Herb Society of America

2009 Promising Plant Profile

Allium ramosum

Common Name: flowering Chinese chives, Chinese chives, flowering leek, fragrant-flowered garlic

Family: Liliaceae

Genus: *Allium*

Specific Epithet: *ramosum*

Life cycle: tender perennial

Zone: 7-11; not frost tender

Flower color/Bloom time: white flowers with a red vein running down the back of the tepals, flowers are edible and form in tight, bell-shaped clusters, they appear in late summer to fall.

Growth/Habit/Form: 12 x 18", clumps 12" to 16" across

Light requirements: full sun

Propagation: division or seed

Use: culinary, insect repellent, containers



Photo courtesy of Theresa Mieseler

Caution: Poisoning may occur if consumed in large quantities. Dogs may be especially at risk. (Plants for a Future Database, www.pfaf.org)



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Description/Cultivation: Native from Siberia to China and west to Kazakhstan. Dark green foliage has hollow stems. The flowers, bulbs, and leaves are edible. For culinary purposes, this herb can be used in the same way that garlic chives are used. The leaves are hot tasting and can be used in soups, stir fries, and salads. Harvest the leaves just prior to flowering for the best flavor. The flowers are hermaphrodite (include both male and female organs) and are pollinated by bees. Sow seed indoors in late winter for transplanting in the spring. This herb should not be planted near alfalfa and take caution when planting it near legumes as it has been known to inhibit their growth. Do not confuse *Allium ramosum* with the more common *A. tuberosum*.

Disclaimer: Profiles are intended to provide a brief introduction to each herb. For additional information on uses, including medicinal contraindications, see the References list. The Herb Society of America can not advise, recommend, or prescribe herbs for medicinal use. Please consult a health care provider before pursuing any herbal treatments. Inclusion of vendor information does not indicate an endorsement by The Herb Society of America, and HSA can not guarantee availability of seeds/plants.