Introduction
Dusty miller is grown for its spectacular foliage: silvery-white, delicately divided leaves covered with a very soft, dense fuzz. Reaching 12 to 18 inches in height, dusty miller is ideal for neat edgings or for breaking up large masses of flower color. It can be planted in containers where the foliage can be viewed up close. Dusty miller is especially dramatic when viewed at night, the silvery leaves catching and reflecting the faintest moonlight. While the small blooms are somewhat attractive, they are usually removed to encourage leaf growth.

General Information
Scientific name: *Senecio cineraria*

Pronunciation: sen-NEESH-shoo-oh sin-ner-RAIR-ee-uh

Common name(s): dusty miller

Family: Compositae

Plant type: annual

USDA hardiness zones: all zones (Fig. 1)

Planting month for zone 7: Jun

Planting month for zone 8: May

Planting month for zone 9: Mar; Apr; May

Planting month for zone 10 and 11: Feb; Mar; Oct; Nov; Dec

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: mass planting; container or above-ground planter; border

Availability: generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

Description
Height: .5 to 1 feet

Spread: .5 to 1 feet

Plant habit: round; upright

Plant density: moderate

Growth rate: slow

Texture: fine

Foliage
Leaf arrangement: alternate

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: lobed

Leaf shape: oblong

Leaf venation: pinnate

Leaf type and persistence: not applicable

Leaf blade length: 4 to 8 inches
Leaf color: silver/gray  
Fall color: not applicable  
Fall characteristic: not applicable

**Flower**  
Flower color: yellow  
Flower characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy

**Fruit**  
Fruit shape: no fruit  
Fruit length: no fruit  
Fruit cover: no fruit  
Fruit color: not applicable  
Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy

**Trunk and Branches**  
Trunk/bark/branches: not applicable  
Current year stem/twig color: gray/silver  
Current year stem/twig thickness: thick

**Culture**  
Light requirement: plant grows in part shade/part sun  
Soil tolerances: clay; sand; acidic; loam  
Drought tolerance: moderate  
Soil salt tolerances: unknown  
Plant spacing: 6 to 12 inches

**Other**  
Roots: not applicable  
Winter interest: not applicable  
Outstanding plant: not particularly outstanding  
Invasive potential: not known to be invasive  
Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests

**Use and Management**  
Dusty miller should be grown in full sun or very light shade in well-drained soil and occasionally trimmed if plants become leggy. Plants are fairly drought tolerant and should not be over-watered.

The cultivar ‘Silver Queen’ has silver-white, lacy leaves on compact, eight-inch-tall plants.

Propagation is by seed.

**Pests and Diseases**  
No pests or diseases of major concern, as long as plants do not remain too wet.