Drooping Leucothoe
(*Leucothoe fontanesiana*)

Alex X. Niemiera, Professor, School of Plant and Environmental Sciences, Virginia Tech

**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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