

**Astrophyllite** [ (K,Na)<sub>3</sub>(Fe,Mn)<sub>7</sub>Ti<sub>2</sub>Si<sub>8</sub>O<sub>24</sub>(O,OH)<sub>7</sub>]

A fairly dense, yet soft and fragile mineral, astrophyllite is a rare titanium silicate that forms as bladed, radiating stellate aggregates. Its black, pearly luster contrasts sharply with the light, felsic granites, quartzes and feldspars—minerals that are commonly associated with astrophyllite. Crystals are typically left *in situ*, often cut into slabs and then polished to show off its sub-metallic, opaque nature. PK13



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