



## **Wheeler's Variety Butcher's Broom** *Ruscus aculeatus 'Wheeler's Variety'*

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight: ☐ ☒

Hardiness Zone: 6b

### Description:

A taller, slow growing variety with sturdy dark green stems foliated with small, tough leaf-like structures that are actually a form of stem with a spine on the end; this variety is a self-fruiting form of the species; red berries persist through winter

### Ornamental Features

Wheeler's Variety Butcher's Broom is primarily grown for its highly ornamental fruit. It features an abundance of magnificent red berries in early fall. It has attractive dark green evergreen foliage. The spiny pointy leaves are highly ornamental and remain dark green throughout the winter. It features subtle green star-shaped flowers with white overtones along the branches in mid spring.

### Landscape Attributes

Wheeler's Variety Butcher's Broom is a multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spiny
- Self-Seeding

Wheeler's Variety Butcher's Broom is recommended for the following landscape applications;



*Wheeler's Variety Butcher's Broom*  
 Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



*Wheeler's Variety Butcher's Broom*  
 foliage  
 Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

**Planting & Growing**

Wheeler's Variety Butcher's Broom will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. It has a low canopy, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. This is a self-pollinating variety, so it doesn't require a second plant nearby to set fruit.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist locations, and should do just fine under average home landscape conditions. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Wheeler's Variety Butcher's Broom makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.