Woodland Ruby Anise Tree

Illicium 'Woodland Ruby'

Height: 7 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 6b

Other Names: Star Anisetree

Description:

Covered with pretty pink star-shaped flowers; shiny evergreen leaves smell like anise when crushed; star-shaped seeds similar to culinary anise, but toxic; use as a hedge or limb up as a tree; prefers shade but can adapt to full sun with adequate moisture

Woodland Ruby Anise Tree flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Woodland Ruby Anise Tree features solitary nodding hot pink frilly flowers rising above the foliage in mid spring. It has attractive green evergreen foliage. The fragrant narrow leaves are highly ornamental and remain green throughout the winter. It produces brown capsules in mid summer.

Landscape Attributes

Woodland Ruby Anise Tree is a dense 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. It is a good choice for attracting birds to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Woodland Ruby Anise Tree is recommended for the following landscape applications;

Woodland Ruby Anise Tree in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Woodland Ruby Anise Tree will grow to be about 7 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 6 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 years.

This shrub does best in partial shade to shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It is particular about its soil conditions, with a strong preference for sandy, acidic soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone over the growing season to conserve soil moisture. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid, and parts of it are known to be toxic to humans and animals, so care should be exercised in planting it around children and pets.

Woodland Ruby Anise Tree 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.