Francis Mason Abelia

Abelia x grandiflora 'Francis Mason'



Francis Mason Abelia flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ◐

Hardiness Zone: 6

Other Names: Golden Abelia, Frances Mason Abelia

Description:

This impressive compact shrub has brilliant yellow-gold and green variegated foliage with lovely white flowers in summer and fall; dazzling foliage tends to stand out in the garden or landscape



Francis Mason Abelia foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Francis Mason Abelia features dainty clusters of lightly-scented white tubular flowers with shell pink overtones at the ends of the branches from mid summer to early fall, which emerge from distinctive pink flower buds. It has attractive green-variegated gold foliage which emerges yellow in spring. The glossy oval leaves are highly ornamental and turn an outstanding burgundy in the fall, which persists throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Francis Mason Abelia is a multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a mounded form. 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 shrub will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It is a good choice for attracting birds, bees and butterflies 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.

Francis Mason Abelia is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Francis Mason Abelia will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 30 years.

This shrub does best in a location that gets morning sunlight but is shaded from the hot afternoon sun, although it will also grow in partial shade. Keep it away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid.

Francis Mason Abelia makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used 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.