Arthur Menzies Mahonia

Mahonia x media 'Arthur Menzies'



Arthur Menzies Mahonia
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 10 feet

Spread: 8 feet

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 6

Other Names: Grape Holly

Description:

Bold clusters of bright yellow flowers during winter and light blue, edible berries make this shrub a wonderful addition to the landscape; lustrous dark green foliage resembles the spiny leaves of a holly; plant it where it will receive some snow cover

Ornamental Features

Arthur Menzies Mahonia features bold racemes of fragrant yellow flowers rising above the foliage in late fall. It has attractive dark green evergreen foliage which emerges coppery-bronze in spring. The spiny oval pinnately compound leaves are highly ornamental and turn an outstanding purple in the fall, which persists throughout the winter. It produces powder blue berries from early to mid summer.

Landscape Attributes

Arthur Menzies Mahonia 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 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 to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Suckering
- Disease

Arthur Menzies Mahonia is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens

Planting & Growing

Arthur Menzies Mahonia will grow to be about 10 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 8 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 slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 years.

This shrub does best in partial shade to full shade. Keep it well 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 pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid.