# Mexican Summersweet

***Clethra pringlei***



*Mexican Summersweet*
*Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder*

Height: 15 feet

Spread: 15 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 7

Other Names: Mexican Clethra, Mexican Sweetspire

**Description:**

This highly fragrant large shrub or small tree features spikes of sweetly scented white flowers in late summer when little else is blooming; neat, tidy habit of growth; needs moist acidic soil

**Ornamental Features**

Mexican Summersweet has masses of beautiful spikes of fragrant white flowers rising above the foliage from mid to late summer, which are most effective when planted in groupings. It has green evergreen foliage. The glossy oval leaves turn an outstanding harvest gold in the fall, which persists throughout the winter.

**Landscape Attributes**

Mexican Summersweet is a multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a shapely oval 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 is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting birds, bees and butterflies to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Suckering

Mexican Summersweet is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

**Planting & Growing**

Mexican Summersweet will grow to be about 15 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 15 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 30 years.

This shrub performs well in both full sun and full shade. It is quite adaptable, prefering to grow in average to wet conditions, and will even tolerate some standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type, but has a definite preference for acidic soils. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is not originally from North America.

Mexican Summersweet 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.