Sweet Broom

Genista x spachiana



Sweet Broom flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 10 feet

Spread: 10 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 8

Description:

A stunning large shrub when in bloom with arching branches tipped with clusters of yellow flowers in late spring; quite handsome the rest of the year with fine green foliage; tough and durable, tolerant of dry conditions

Ornamental Features

Sweet Broom features showy clusters of fragrant yellow pea-like flowers at the ends of the branches in mid spring. It has green deciduous foliage. The small oval compound leaves do not develop any appreciable fall color. The smooth bark and grayish green branches add an interesting dimension to the landscape.

Landscape Attributes

Sweet Broom is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a shapely form and gracefully arching branches. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

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. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Self-Seeding

Sweet Broom is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use
- Windbreaks and Shelterbelts

Planting & Growing

Sweet Broom will grow to be about 10 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 10 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 fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 years.

This shrub should only be grown in full sunlight. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for xeriscaping or the moisture-conserving landscape. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in poor soils, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. 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.