Forest Bell Bush

Mackaya bella

Height: 10 feet

Spread: 8 feet

Sunlight: ◐

Hardiness Zone: 8

Description:

A lovely shrub or small tree with dark green, glossy leaves on slender branches; large, attractive bell shaped flowers of pale lavender and white in spring, then occasionally through summer; prune to maintain bushiness and shape



Forest Bell Bush flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Forest Bell Bush
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Forest Bell Bush features showy clusters of white bell-shaped flowers with lavender overtones and purple stripes at the ends of the branches in mid spring. It has attractive dark green evergreen foliage. The glossy oval leaves are highly ornamental and remain dark green throughout the winter. The smooth tan bark adds an interesting dimension to the landscape.

Landscape Attributes

Forest Bell Bush 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 is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Forest Bell Bush is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

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Planting & Growing

Forest Bell Bush will grow to be about 10 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 8 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, 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 30 years.

This shrub should be grown in a location with 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 pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by cuttings.

Forest Bell Bush makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. Its large size and upright habit of growth lend it for use as a solitary accent, or in a composition surrounded by smaller plants around the base 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.