Shansi Barberry

Berberis mitifolia

Height: 6 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 6

Description:

A fine but rarely found shrub featuring showy flowers, bright red fruit and superb fall color; multifunctional, excellent used as a hedge or barrier; not very fussy about its growing conditions

Ornamental Features

Shansi Barberry is primarily grown for its highly ornamental fruit. The fruits are showy red drupes carried in abundance from early to late fall. It is draped in stunning racemes of yellow flowers hanging below the branches in mid spring. It has green deciduous foliage. The oval leaves turn an outstanding red in the fall.

Landscape Attributes

Shansi Barberry is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a more or less rounded 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 can be pruned at anytime. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Suckering
- Spiny

Shansi Barberry is recommended for the following landscape applications;



Shansi Barberry in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Shansi Barberry flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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



Shansi Barberry flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Shansi Barberry will grow to be about 6 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 6 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 medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 30 years.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist locations, and should do just fine under average home landscape conditions. 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 type or pH, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is not originally from North America.

Shansi Barberry 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.