Orange Cestrum

Cestrum aurantiacum

Height: 8 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 9

Other Names: Orange Jessamine

Description:

This spectacular shrub produces showy masses of bright orange tubular flowers over a long period; plant in sheltered area of the garden or along borders; dies back in colder zones; may re-sprout from roots after a hard freeze



Orange Cestrum flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Orange Cestrum features showy clusters of orange tubular flowers at the ends of the branches from late spring to late summer. It has forest green evergreen foliage which emerges green in spring. The pointy leaves remain forest green throughout the winter. It produces white berries from late summer to late fall.



Orange Cestrum in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Orange Cestrum is a dense 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 is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Orange Cestrum is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Orange Cestrum will grow to be about 8 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 5 feet. It has a low canopy, 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 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 type or pH. 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 species is not originally from North America, 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.

Orange Cestrum makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use 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.