Oval Kumquat

Fortunella margarita

Height: 15 feet

Spread: 15 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 8

Description:

Attractive deep green foliage with lighter green undersides on a compact plant; showy fragrant flowers, followed by oval orange fruit with a sweet peel and sour flesh; protect from frost; a great patio container plant or landscape accent

Edible Qualities

Oval Kumquat is a large shrub that is commonly grown for its edible qualities, although it does have ornamental merits as well. It produces orange oval fruit with red overtones which are usually ready for picking from mid to late winter. The fruits have a sweet taste.

The fruit are most often used in the following ways:

- Fresh Eating
- Cooking
- Juice-Making
- Sauces

Features & Attributes

Oval Kumquat features showy clusters of fragrant white star-shaped flowers with buttery yellow eyes at the ends of the branches from mid spring to late summer. It has attractive dark green foliage with light green undersides. The glossy oval leaves are highly ornamental and remain dark green throughout the winter. It features an abundance of magnificent orange berries with red overtones from late fall to late winter. The fruit can be messy if allowed to drop on the lawn or walkways, and may require occasional clean-up.



Oval Kumquat fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Oval Kumquat
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

This 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 plant, 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. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Aside from its primary use as an edible, Oval Kumquat is sutiable for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Hedges/Screening
- Orchard/Edible Landscaping
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Oval Kumquat will grow to be about 15 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 15 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 50 years or more.

This shrub is quite ornamental as well as edible, and is as much at home in a landscape or flower garden as it is in a designated edibles garden. It 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 particular about its soil conditions, with a strong preference for rich, acidic soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America.

Oval Kumquat is a good choice for the edible garden, 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.