Maygreen Box Honeysuckle

Lonicera nitida 'Maygreen'



Maygreen Box Honeysuckle foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5

Other Names: May Green Box Honeysuckle, Boxleaf Honeysuckle

Description:

Lovely white flowers and dense light green foliage; dark purple fruit attracts birds and flowers provides nectar; makes a fantastic hedge; sometimes confused with cotoneaster



Maygreen Box Honeysuckle foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Maygreen Box Honeysuckle has attractive light green evergreen foliage which emerges chartreuse in spring on a plant with an arching habit of growth. The tiny glossy oval pinnately compound leaves are highly ornamental and remain light green throughout the winter. It is covered in stunning lightly-scented creamy white tubular flowers at the ends of the branches in late spring. It produces deep purple berries in late summer.

Landscape Attributes

Maygreen Box Honeysuckle is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a shapely form and gracefully arching branches. It lends an extremely fine and delicate texture to the landscape composition which can make it a great accent feature on this basis alone.

This shrub will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Insects
- Disease

Maygreen Box Honeysuckle is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Maygreen Box Honeysuckle will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front. 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, but has a definite preference for alkaline soils. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Maygreen Box Honeysuckle 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.