Alluaudia

Alluaudia dumosa



Alluaudia foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 10 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 9

Description:

A striking multi-branched shrub or small tree featuring gray-green stems with no leaves, and few spines; blooms infrequently with clusters of pink and white flowers; drought tolerant; stands out in the garden or borders; also great for rock gardens

Ornamental Features

Alluaudia is primarily valued in the landscape or garden for its ornamental upright and spreading habit of growth. It features subtle clusters of pink flowers with white overtones held atop the branches in mid summer. It has grayish green deciduous foliage. The succulent leaves do not develop any appreciable fall color. The spiny bark and grayish green branches are extremely showy and add significant winter interest.



Alluaudia
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Alluaudia is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its strikingly bold and coarse texture can be very effective in a balanced landscape composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. 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;

- Spiny

Alluaudia is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Alluaudia will grow to be about 10 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 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 slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 40 years or more.

This shrub should only be grown in full sunlight. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in standing water. 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 pH, but grows best in sandy soils. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by cuttings.

Alluaudia 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.