Mock Privet

Phillyrea latifolia

Height: 30 feet

Spread: 30 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 7

Other Names: Green Olive



Mock Privet foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Mock Privet
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Description:

This large shrub or small tree features shiny evergreen foliage on an upright, rounded habit; clusters of fragrant greenish-white flowers in spring are not showy; a visually attractive landscape specimen

Ornamental Features

Mock Privet has attractive dark green evergreen foliage on a tree with a round habit of growth. The glossy pointy leaves are highly ornamental and remain dark green throughout the winter. It features subtle clusters of fragrant chartreuse flowers at the ends of the branches in mid spring. It produces navy blue berries from mid summer to mid fall.

Landscape Attributes

Mock Privet is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen tree 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 is a relatively low maintenance tree, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting birds and hummingbirds to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Mock Privet is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening

Planting & Growing

Mock Privet will grow to be about 30 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 30 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 to a ripe old age of 100 years or more; think of this as a heritage tree for future generations!

This tree 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 may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. 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.