Mission Canyon Barberry

Berberis 'Mission Canyon'

Height: 24 inches

Spread: 5 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5

Other Names: syn. B. x decumbens, B. aquifolium var. repens



Mission Canyon Barberry flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Description:

An evergreen shrub with a low, spreading habit and arching, spiny branches; dark green, shiny leaves take on bronze-red tones in winter; bright yellow flowers along the branches in spring; an excellent foundation or groundcover



Mission Canyon Barberry
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Mission Canyon Barberry features showy clusters of yellow flowers at the ends of the branches from mid to late spring. It has attractive dark green evergreen foliage. The large spiny oval pinnately compound leaves are highly ornamental and turn outstanding shades of coppery-bronze and in the fall, which persists throughout the winter. The fruits are showy navy blue drupes with hints of powder blue and which fade to black over time, which are displayed from late summer to mid fall. The tan stems can be quite attractive.

Landscape Attributes

Mission Canyon Barberry is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a mounded 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 shrub will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and can be pruned at anytime. It is a good choice for attracting birds and bees to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Suckering
- Spiny

Mission Canyon Barberry is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Mission Canyon Barberry will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 5 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front. It grows at a slow 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 is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. This plant will benefit from an application of bonemeal and/or mycorrhizal fertilizer at the time of planting. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Mission Canyon Barberry makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. It can be used either as 'filler' or as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, depending on the height and form of the other plants used in the container planting. 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.