Fragrant Wintersweet

Chimonanthus praecox



Fragrant Wintersweet flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 8 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 6

Description:

A native garden shrub valued primarily for its late winter bloom of highly fragrant soft yellow flowers along the bare branches when virtually nothing else is blooming in the landscape; needs an occasional rejuvenation pruning to keep it looking neat

Ornamental Features

Fragrant Wintersweet features dainty fragrant lemon yellow cup-shaped flowers with purple eyes along the branches in late winter before the leaves. It has forest green deciduous foliage. The glossy pointy leaves turn buttery yellow in fall.

Landscape Attributes

Fragrant Wintersweet is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a shapely form and gracefully arching branches. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other landscape plants with finer foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Fragrant Wintersweet is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use

Planting & Growing

Fragrant Wintersweet will grow to be about 8 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 6 feet. It tends to be a little leggy, with a typical clearance of 2 feet 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 50 years or more.

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 or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is native to parts of North America.