Fairchild Barbados Cherry

Malpighia glabra 'Nana'



Fairchild Barbados Cherry flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 5 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 8

Other Names: Antilles Cherry, Escobillo, Wild Crapemyrtle

Description:

A dwarf variety with a mounded, weeping habit and small, dark green foliage; panicles of pink crapemyrtle-like flowers are followed by ornamental red fruits; requires wind protection; great for borders or containers



Fairchild Barbados Cherry in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Fairchild Barbados Cherry features showy panicles of fragrant pink frilly flowers with gold eyes at the ends of the branches from late spring to early summer. The fruits are showy red drupes carried in abundance from mid summer to mid fall. It has dark green evergreen foliage. The small fuzzy pointy leaves remain dark green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Fairchild Barbados Cherry is a multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a rounded form and gracefully weeping branches. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This shrub will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It is a good choice for attracting birds, bees and butterflies to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Messy

Fairchild Barbados Cherry is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Fairchild Barbados Cherry will grow to be about 5 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 5 feet. It has a low canopy, 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 is a self-pollinating variety, so it doesn't require a second plant nearby to set fruit.

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. This plant should not require much in the way of fertilizing once established, although it may appreciate a shot of general-purpose fertilizer from time to time early in the growing season. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in sandy soils, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. This is a selection of a native North American species. It can be propagated by cuttings; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Fairchild Barbados Cherry 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.