Myrsine

Myrsine cubana



Myrsine foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 20 feet

Spread: 8 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 10

Other Names: Colicwood

Description:

A large shrub or small tree with an erect trunk and an irregular, narrow crown; attractive foliage is smooth and bright green; inconspicuous flowers peak in fall-winter followed by showy deep blue to black fruit covering the ends of branches

Ornamental Features

Myrsine is primarily grown for its highly ornamental fruit. It features an abundance of magnificent navy blue berries with powder blue overtones from late fall to mid spring, which fade to black over time. The fruit can be messy if allowed to drop on the lawn or walkways, and may require occasional clean-up. It has forest green foliage with grayish green undersides which emerges chartreuse in spring. The glossy oval leaves remain forest green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Myrsine is a multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. 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 shrub, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. 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;

- Self-Seeding

Myrsine is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens

Planting & Growing

Myrsine will grow to be about 20 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 8 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 medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 40 years or more. This is a dioecious species, meaning that individual plants are either male or female. Only the females will produce fruit, and a male variety of the same species is required nearby as a pollinator.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It is quite adaptable, prefering to grow in average to wet conditions, and will even tolerate some standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. 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. This species is native to parts of North America..