Star Flower Scorpio™ Illicium

Illicium 'NCIH1'



Star Flower Scorpio Illicium flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 6

Other Names: Star Anise

Description:

Deep green evergreen foliage smells like licorice when crushed; reblooming deep red, star shaped flowers; dense, and well branched, maintaining a tidy habit; great for foundations, borders, and containers; prefers partial shade with adequate moisture

Ornamental Features

Star Flower Scorpio Illicium is primarily valued in the garden for its ornamental upright and spreading habit of growth. It has dark green evergreen foliage. The fragrant narrow leaves remain dark green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Star Flower Scorpio Illicium is a dense 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 to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Star Flower Scorpio Illicium is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Star Flower Scorpio Illicium will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 5 feet. It tends to be a little leggy, with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground. It grows at a medium 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. This plant should be periodically fertilized throughout the active growing season with a specially-formulated acidic fertilizer. It is particular about its soil conditions, with a strong preference for sandy, acidic soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone over the growing season to conserve soil moisture. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid, and parts of it are known to be toxic to humans and animals, so care should be exercised in planting it around children and pets.

Star Flower Scorpio Illicium makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use 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.