Mountain Pepper

Drimys lanceolata



Mountain Pepper foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 15 feet

Spread: 10 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 8

Other Names: Cornish Pepper Leaf, Tasmannia lanceolata

Description:

Showy pale pink male flowers and lovely white female flowers bloom in mid spring; a striking hedge or shrub border when regularly pruned; magnolia like leaves and richly red young stems add interest; protect from cold wind

Ornamental Features

Mountain Pepper features showy clusters of fragrant pink star-shaped flowers with white overtones at the ends of the branches from mid to late spring. It has attractive light green evergreen foliage which emerges antique red in spring. The glossy oval leaves are highly ornamental and remain light green throughout the winter. The brown bark and dark red branches are extremely showy and add significant winter interest.



Mountain Pepper
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Mountain Pepper is an open multi-stemmed evergreen tree with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance tree, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Mountain Pepper is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use

Planting & Growing

Mountain Pepper will grow to be about 15 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 10 feet. It has a low canopy 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 40 years or more.

This tree 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 pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in both summer and winter to conserve soil moisture and protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is not originally from North America.