Box Honeysuckle

Lonicera nitida



Box Honeysuckle
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 5 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5

Other Names: Boxleaf Honeysuckle, Shrubby Honeysuckle

Description:

A low, bushy shrub valued for its showy white flowers in spring; the fruit is purple and inedible and rarely forms when clipped regularly; makes a fantastic hedge, takes pruning well; confused with cotoneaster but is distinguished by alternate foliage

Ornamental Features

Box Honeysuckle has attractive green evergreen foliage on a plant with an arching habit of growth. The tiny glossy oval pinnately compound leaves are highly ornamental and remain green throughout the winter. It is bathed in stunning lightly-scented creamy white tubular flowers at the ends of the branches in late spring. It produces deep purple berries in late summer.

Landscape Attributes

Box Honeysuckle is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a shapely form and gracefully arching 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 is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Insects



Box Honeysuckle foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Box Honeysuckle is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Topiary



Box Honeysuckle
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Box Honeysuckle will grow to be about 5 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 5 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 30 years.

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, but has a definite preference for alkaline soils. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is not originally from North America.