Portugal Laurel

Prunus lusitanica

Height: 20 feet

Spread: 20 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 6

Description:

A large growing dense laurel, producing showy, fragrant, erect white spike flowers, black fruit and glossy dark-green leaves; this vigorously growing variety makes a stunning hedge or accent plant, takes pruning very well

Ornamental Features

Portugal Laurel features showy racemes of fragrant white flowers rising above the foliage in mid spring. It has attractive dark green evergreen foliage. The glossy pointy leaves are highly ornamental and remain dark green throughout the winter. The fruits are showy black drupes displayed in mid summer.

Landscape Attributes

Portugal Laurel is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen tree with a shapely oval form. 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 tree, 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 to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Portugal Laurel is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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



Portugal Laurel flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Portugal Laurel in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Portugal Laurel will grow to be about 20 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 20 feet. It has a low canopy, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 50 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, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is not originally from North America.



Portugal Laurel foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder