

# Lakeshore Garden Centres

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## Jim Porter Tea Olive



### Jim Porter Tea Olive

*Osmanthus armatus 'Jim Porter'*

Height: 8 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 8a

Other Names: False Holly, Holly Olive, Devil Wood

#### Description:

A dense, upright evergreen shrub or small tree, with spiny, lustrous green leaves are holly-like with long spines; fragrant, tiny white flowers in axillary clusters appear in early fall; forms an excellent screen or hedge, great for shrub borders

#### Ornamental Features

Jim Porter Tea Olive is primarily valued in the landscape or garden for its decidedly oval form. It is covered in stunning clusters of fragrant white tubular flowers along the branches from late summer to mid fall. Its attractive spiny pointy leaves remain dark green in colour throughout the year.

#### Landscape Attributes

Jim Porter Tea Olive is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen perennial with a shapely oval form. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spiny

Jim Porter Tea Olive is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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



*Jim Porter Tea Olive foliage*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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### Planting & Growing

Jim Porter Tea Olive will grow to be about 8 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 6 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground. Although it is technically a woody plant, this slow-growing plant can be expected to behave as a perennial in our climate if planted outdoors over the winter, usually regrowing from its base (crown) the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. You may want to keep it away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. 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 particular about its soil conditions, with a strong preference for rich, acidic soils. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Jim Porter Tea Olive is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used 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 growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden. Be aware that in our climate, most plants cannot be expected to survive the winter if left in containers outdoors, and this plant is no exception. Contact our experts for more information on how to protect it over the winter months.

This plant is not reliably hardy in our region, and certain restrictions may apply; contact the store for more information.