



***Acer saccharum* 'Barrett Cole' APOLLO®**

SUGAR MAPLE

Outstanding Qualities

A fantastic semi-dwarf columnar sugar maple with a narrow upright form and a strong straight trunk, Apollo® will only grow to about half the size of typical sugar maple forms. In leaf it is a dense pillar of green shifting in fall to a spire of orange and gold. This is an excellent selection for use as a street tree or in the small urban garden.

Colors & Combos

Great Plant Combinations: Chamaecyparis nootkatensis 'Green Arrow', Calocedrus decurrens, Fagus sylvatica 'Purple Fountain', Cornus 'Eddie's White Wonder', Salix purpurea 'Nana', Osmanthus heterophyllus 'Purpureus', Heptacodium miconioides

Great Color Contrasts: silver, gold, burgundy

Great Color Partners: green

Culture Notes

Sugar maples grow best in well drained soil, but are very tolerant of sandy and clay conditions. Full sun to light shade will give the most intense fall color. This compact columnar form will grow best with regular summer watering. Prune to prevent rubbing and crossing branches in young trees; as they mature very little pruning is needed.



© J. Frank Schmidt & Son Co.

Quick Facts

Plant Type: columnar tree

Foliage Type: deciduous

Plant Height: 12 ft. 0 in. (3.66 m.)

Plant Width/Spread: 8 ft. 0 in.
(2.44 m.)

Hardiness: USDA Zones 4 to 8

Sun/Light Exposure: full sun

Water Requirements: regular
watering



WSU Clark County Extension

Searchable, categorized images



Kinnikinnik

Scientific name: *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*

Taxonomy

Family: Ericaceae

Type: Groundcovers
evergreen

Native: YES

Plant Requirements

Zone: 2 to 9

Plant Characteristics

Height: 1 ft

Width: 12 ft

Bloom Time: May to August

Bloom Color: White

Additional Characteristics

Trees

- ☐ Small lot suitable
- ☐ Flowering tree
- ☐ Safe for beneath power lines

Fruit

- ☒ Showy
- ☒ Edible

Leaves

- ☐ Good Fall color
- ☐ Leaves fragrant
- ☐ Gold foliage
- ☐ Evergreen

Bark

- ☐ Showy

Wildlife value

- ☐ Attract hummingbirds
- ☐ Attract butterflies
- ☒ Attract birds

Poisonous

- ☐ Foliage
- ☐ Fruit

Description

As a low growing, drought tolerant evergreen groundcover, kinnikinnick or bear-berry as it is commonly referred to, is planted for its crisp foliage, white flowers, and red fall fruit.

Morphology:

Evergreen ground cover, 6-12+ inches tall, branches root where they touch the soil, mat-forming. Leaves have an alternate arrangement, are simple, form an oblong shape, and grow up to 1" long. Leaves are lustrous dark green above, lighter below. Flowers are considered to be perfect (contain both male and female parts), white-tinged pink, and formed as nodding urn-shaped structures, as with other plants in the manzanita family. Fleshy fruit bright red (known as drupes) may form in late summer. When fruit do form the local song birds and squirrels will consume them all quickly.

Adaptation:

Sun or partial shade. Difficult to transplant. Does best in poor, sandy, infertile, acid soils. Once established, kinnikinnick withstands drought and full sun exposure and does best in coarse, low-nutrient soils. It is not competitive on richer sites. It is slow to start growing, so plant densely or intermix with a fast grower if quick coverage is important. After a year or two, kinnikinnick will spread more rapidly to form mats.

In the home landscape bear-berry is an ideal choice for hillside or sloping area, or as rockery planting. In a lawn it can be used as a ground cover in tree and shrub beds. In commercial settings this groundcover is used extensively along parking strip medians.

Pests:

None reported.

Images



'Massachusetts' cultivar



'Massachusetts' cultivar again



Bloom on bear-berry



Cultivar 'Vulcan Peak'

For assistance, contact Dr. Charles Brun (brunc@wsu.edu), (360) 397-6060 5701
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***Berberis thunbergii f. atropurpurea* 'Concorde'**

DWARF PURPLELEAF JAPANESE BARBERRY

Outstanding Qualities

This cultivar was selected for its small compact size and dense growth. In spring deep red-burgundy foliage emerges as small clusters of bright yellow flowers open and dangle from short spiky stems. The blooms are quickly hidden by the richly colored foliage. This barberry holds its deep color through the growing season until fall when it brightens to crimson before dropping its leaves. This is a more consistent grower with better color than the similar but inferior red pygmy barberry.

Colors & Combos

Great Plant Combinations: Campanula poscharskyana 'Blue Waterfall', Triteleia ixioides 'Starlight', Digitalis grandiflora, Tsuga heterophylla 'Thorsen's Weeping', Pieris japonica 'Sarabande', Yucca filamentosa 'Color Guard'

Great Color Contrasts: chartreuse, green, yellow

Great Color Partners: blue, orange, purple

Culture Notes

This dwarf barberry prefers a location in full sun for the best foliage color. It also prefers a site with well-drained soil, but will tolerate sand and clay. Once established it only needs occasional watering during dry weather, but prefers regular watering in sandy soils.



© Richie Steffen / Great Plant Picks

Quick Facts

Plant Type: mounding shrub

Foliage Type: deciduous

Plant Height: 2 ft. 0 in. (0.61 m.)

Plant Width/Spread: 3 ft. 0 in.
(0.91 m.)

Hardiness: USDA Zones 4 to 8

Flower Color: yellow

Sun/Light Exposure: full sun to
light shade

Water Requirements: occasional
watering; regular watering in sandy
soils



Carpinus betulus

HORNBEAM

Outstanding Qualities

The European hornbeam is a resilient urban tree, tolerating poor soils, pollution and heavy foot traffic over its roots. It has a graceful habit, with a muscular, smooth-barked, silver-gray trunk that opens into a wide, rounded, low-branching crown that casts moderate shade. The serrated, deep green leaves turn golden in fall, and mature trees are covered with interesting, dangling seed clusters.

Colors & Combos

Great Color Contrasts: dark green, bronze

Great Color Partners: silver, variegated

Culture Notes

European hornbeam will grow well in full sun or light to deep shade. It is not fussy about soil as long as it is well-drained and it will tolerate sandy and clay situations. Once established it is very drought tolerant. If used as a hedge plant it is best in full sun to open shade.



© Mary Randlett

Quick Facts

Plant Type: tree

Foliage Type: deciduous

Plant Height: 25 ft. 0 in. (7.62 m.)

Plant Width/Spread: 25 ft. 0 in. (7.62 m.)

Hardiness: USDA Zones 4 to 8

Flower Color: yellow

Sun/Light Exposure: full sun or light to deep shade

Water Requirements: drought tolerant when established



Cistus x hybridus

WHITE ROCKROSE

Outstanding Qualities

White rockrose is the hardiest and most reliable selection of cistus for our region. The dense evergreen shrub is covered in late spring with rich red buds that open to pure white flowers with yellow centers. Once established it is very drought tolerant and requires little care.

Colors & Combos

Great Plant Combinations: Effective when grouped with other Mediterranean plants in a drought tolerant landscape.

Great Color Contrasts: silver, gold, dark green

Great Color Partners: rose, purple

Culture Notes

Cistus x hybridus prefers full sun and hot sites, but it tolerates light shade. Well-drained or sandy soil is important; plants will not thrive in wet soil or areas that are prone to standing water. It is drought tolerant once established and survives best with neglect. Extra fertilizer and water will make plants more susceptible to flopping and winter damage. As it also tolerates salt-laden air, it is a natural for coastal gardens.



© Rick Peterson / Great Plant Picks

Quick Facts

Plant Type: mounding shrub

Foliage Type: evergreen

Plant Height: 3 ft. 0 in. (0.91 m.)

Plant Width/Spread: 5 ft. 0 in.
(1.52 m.)

Hardiness: USDA Zones 7 to 10

Flower Color: white

Sun/Light Exposure: full sun or
light shade

Water Requirements: drought
tolerant when established



***Helianthemum nummularium* 'Cheviot'**

SUN ROSE

Outstanding Qualities

Sun roses are an underused plant that can bring a variety of sherbet colors to the late spring, early summer garden; especially for sites with full sun and little water. The evergreen foliage is grayish green with the small leaves being lance-shaped. This spreading, woody-stemmed perennial could be considered a subshrub as its creeping stems rarely venture above a foot in height and spread to three or so feet. In May to June the bright flower colors of various cultivars burst forth with 'Cheviot' being a delicate pastel salmon pink color. The rose-shaped flowers only last a day, but on well-grown plants the bloom can be profuse.

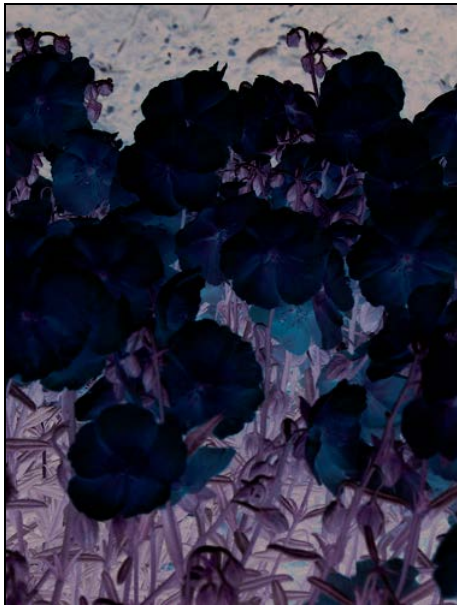
Colors & Combos

Great Color Contrasts: dark green, violet

Great Color Partners: orange, yellow

Culture Notes

Being native to habitats with plenty of sunshine these plants flower best on full sun sites. Water until established and then sun roses are drought tolerant. Any average soil will do as well as soils that are clay or sandy provided the drainage is excellent.



© Blooming Nursery, Inc.

Quick Facts

Plant Type: spreading perennial

Foliage Type: evergreen

Plant Height: 1 ft. 0 in. (0.30 m.)

Plant Width/Spread: 3 ft. 0 in.
(0.91 m.)

Hardiness: USDA Zones 5 to 8

Flower Color: orange

Sun/Light Exposure: full sun

Water Requirements: drought
tolerant once established



Helictotrichon sempervirens

BLUE OAT GRASS

Outstanding Qualities

An evergreen grass with a feathery texture, *Helictotrichon sempervirens* features brilliant grayish-blue foliage and tall, golden oat-like seed heads in summer. Because it is drought tolerant, this grass works well in gravel plantings. This workhorse grass is adaptable to poor cultural conditions and lack of maintenance. For these reasons it is excellent in commercial plantings. Planted in groupings it makes an excellent groundcover, or it can be used singly as a captivating specimen plant. To enliven heath and heather plantings add a few blue oat grasses. It looks particularly good with the orange and burgundy foliage selections, making a super low-care planting that looks good all year.

Colors & Combos

Great Color Contrasts: gold, yellow, orange

Great Color Partners: blue, dark green, silver

Culture Notes

Blue oat grass prefers a location in full sun with well-drained or sandy soil. Once established it is fully drought tolerant. It does not respond well to cutting back. Instead, comb out old and dead grass blades by hand or with a hand rake in late winter.



Quick Facts

Plant Type: grass

Foliage Type: evergreen

Plant Height: 2 ft. 0 in. (0.61 m.)

Plant Width/Spread: 2 ft. 0 in.
(0.61 m.)

Hardiness: USDA Zones 6 to 9

Flower Color: brown

Sun/Light Exposure: full sun

Water Requirements: drought
tolerant when established



***Miscanthus sinensis* 'Morning Light'**

VARIEGATED MAIDEN GRASS

Outstanding Qualities

Featuring blue-green foliage with white margins, 'Morning Light' is a silvery addition to the border. Dense seed heads in late summer and early autumn provide movement in the garden. A common fault of *Miscanthus sinensis* is that several of the cultivars splay open as they get older. 'Morning Light' does not. This adaptable large-scale grass is easy to grow and handsome. It should be cut to the ground in late winter and requires no other maintenance. It looks great combined with *Fothergilla gardenii* and other larger growing perennials like *Thalictrum delavayi* 'Hewitt's Double' and gunneras to add a light texture. It can be used in combination with annuals to provide stature and variety of texture. It looks particularly good when planted with large-leaved perennials for contrast.

Colors & Combos

Great Color Contrasts: orange, purple, burgundy

Great Color Partners: dark green, gold, silver

Culture Notes

This adaptable grass is easy to grow in full sun with moist to well-drained soils. It will tolerate sand and clay, but in sandy sites regular summer watering may be necessary to keep this perennial from withering. Plants in other soil conditions only need occasional watering during dry weather. Avoid excessive fertilizer and shade or the plant can become floppy in late summer. Allow to stand into the winter as long as the grass looks good, once it is not longer attractive cut to the ground.



© Richie Steffen / Great Plant Picks

Quick Facts

Plant Type: clumping grass

Foliage Type: deciduous

Plant Height: 5 ft. 0 in. (1.52 m.)

Plant Width/Spread: 4 ft. 0 in.
(1.22 m.)

Hardiness: USDA Zones 5 to 10

Sun/Light Exposure: full sun

Water Requirements: occasional
watering during dry weather



Pinus contorta var. contorta

SHORE PINE

Outstanding Qualities

Who is not impressed by the beauty and toughness of this versatile Pacific Northwest native pine? Shore pine will grow in almost any location provided there is enough sunlight. It is one of the few conifers that tolerates wet places as long as water is not standing all year long. Because of its exceptional tolerance of salt spray, it is a common sight in our coastal landscapes. It often grows on bluffs just above the crashing ocean waves. It responds well to pruning and can be shaped into fantastic, twisted forms suitable for Japanese gardens or adding whimsy to any home. Let the pine grow naturally, and it makes an evergreen backdrop or acts as a transition to more natural areas. Once it is established, this conifer is very drought tolerant, requiring no additional watering.

Colors & Combos

Great Color Contrasts: gold, burgundy, variegated

Great Color Partners: silver, dark green, blue

Culture Notes

Shore pine grows best in full sun. It prefers well-drained or sandy soil, but will tolerate clay if the drainage is adequate. Once established it is completely drought tolerant. The roots are tolerant of restricted zones making it great for patio planters and large containers. It is fairly disease and insect free, although it can sometimes be attacked by a fungal rust gall. These galls can easily be pruned out and disposed of during the summer. Little pruning is needed to maintain its twisted habit; remove dead, broken or poorly formed limbs. New growth can be broken in half or pinched out to create a denser more compact tree.



© Richie Steffen / Great Plant Picks

Quick Facts

Plant Type: conifer

Foliage Type: evergreen

Plant Height: 15 ft. 0 in. (4.57 m.)

Plant Width/Spread: 10 ft. 0 in. (3.05 m.)

Hardiness: USDA Zones 6 to 8

Flower Color: none

Sun/Light Exposure: full sun

Water Requirements: drought tolerant when established



Vaccinium ovatum

EVERGREEN HUCKLEBERRY

Outstanding Qualities

Vaccinium ovatum is one of the most versatile and underused native plants of the Pacific Northwest. It provides a regional feel to our gardens and helps define the Northwest landscape. Typically thought of as a woodland plant, it performs equally well in full sun. In spring its small, leathery leaves have tones of copper and bronze, and they mature to shiny dark green. Small, urn-shaped white flowers hang under the foliage in spring, transforming to succulent blue-black berries by late summer. These make delicious jam or jelly. The small leaves of this shrub create a fine texture, but its slightly irregular growth habit keeps it interesting. It contrasts well with plants with larger leaves, such as rhododendrons. Use evergreen huckleberry in informal groupings or as a natural low screen. Surprisingly it will also shear into a dense formal hedge.

Colors & Combos

Great Plant Combinations: Naturally, plants of the evergreen huckleberry grow well and fit well into a landscape of rhododendrons, ferns, and other woodland-type plants.

Great Color Contrasts: variegated, gold, chartreuse

Great Color Partners: dark green, silver, blue

Culture Notes

Evergreen huckleberry is an adaptable plant which grows well full sun to dappled shade. It does equally well in deep shade, but may not flower or fruit. Provide plants with a well-drained or sandy soil. If the drainage is adequate it will tolerate clay. Once established it is drought tolerant, but flowering and fruiting is better with occasional watering during dry weather. Little pruning is needed to maintain a nice looking shrub.



© Richie Steffen / Great Plant Picks

Quick Facts

Plant Type: upright shrub

Foliage Type: evergreen

Plant Height: 6 ft. 0 in. (1.83 m.)

Plant Width/Spread: 6 ft. 0 in. (1.83 m.)

Hardiness: USDA Zones 7 to 9

Flower Color: white

Sun/Light Exposure: full sun to deep shade

Water Requirements: regular watering to drought tolerant



Wireless® Zelkova

Zelkova serrata 'Schmidtlow'

Zone: 5
Height: 24'
Spread: 36'
Shape: Broadly spreading vase
Foliage: Medium green
Fall Color: Red

Selected for its low height and broad spreading shape, this cultivar has an ideal shape for street plantings under utility lines. Its red fall color is a surprising extra feature.



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Crinkle-leaf Creeper

Scientific name: *Rubus calycinoides*

Taxonomy

Family: Rosaceae
Type: Groundcovers
evergreen
Native: NO

Plant Requirements

Zone: 6 to 10
Sun: Full to partial sun

Plant Characteristics

Height: 0 ft
Width: 5 ft
Bloom Time: May to June
Bloom Color: White

Additional Characteristics

Trees

- ☐ Small lot suitable
☐ Flowering tree
☐ Safe for beneath power lines

Fruit

- ☒ Showy
☒ Edible

Leaves

- ☒ Good Fall color
☐ Leaves fragrant
☐ Gold foliage
☒ Evergreen

Bark

- ☐ Showy

Wildlife value

- ☒ Attract hummingbirds
☒ Attract butterflies
☒ Attract birds

Poisonous

- ☐ Foliage
☐ Fruit

Description

Crinkle-leaf Creeper is sold at the garden center as quilt textured creeping groundcover that will slowly grow in large mats to fill in the flower bed without becoming invasive.

Morphology:

This evergreen groundcover grows in dense low mats, attaining a height of 6"-12" (typically lower) to width of 5' at the rate of 1' per year. It has shaggy stems with small prickles. Leaves are arranged in an alternate fashion, are simple and have oval to rounded shape. Mature leaves are 1.5" wide with 3-5 lobes and undulated margins. During the summer the leaves are deep green on the upper surface and pubescent beneath. When the weather turns cooler in the fall the leaves turn a pleasing burgundy color.

Flowering occurs in early summer. The white flowers, which are borne in racemes, attain a width of ¾". After the flowers fade fruit occasionally form which are orangish-red and resemble raspberries.

Adaptation:

This species can tolerate sun to partial shade. The plants are very durable, seeming to thrive under most conditions, even those which are hot and dry. It doesn't climb trees or smother nearby shrubs and it can readily be controlled with mechanical edging. This plant is attractive to bees, butterflies and/or birds.

Pests:

Insect and pest free.

Images



Leaves and flowers in May



Stems trailing down a hill-side



Cordate leaf base



Complete coverage of the soil

For assistance, contact Dr. Charles Brun (brunc@wsu.edu), (360) 397-6060 5701
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***Nandina domestica* 'Gulf Stream'**

COMPACT HEAVENLY BAMBOO

Outstanding Qualities

Nandina domestica 'Gulf Stream' is one of the best compact shrubs for year-round foliage interest. It features a variety of leaf colors on a fairly dense, evergreen plant. New growth is bronze with orange tints. Older leaves range from blue-green to gold and red. GPP member Richie Steffen recommends it for its great red- and orange-toned winter color. 'Gulf Stream' is a tough plant, tolerant of urban conditions. Unlike other heavenly bamboos, it is bushy and compact, reaching only 2.5 to 3 feet high. It makes a fine informal hedge or can be used as a foundation planting. It can also be used in containers or in the mixed border. Complement the dissected leaves of heavenly bamboo with large-leaved evergreen shrubs such as David's viburnum or rhododendrons. The barks of paperbark maple and Chinese red birch pick up the tones of 'Gulf Stream' and make it shine.

Colors & Combos

Great Color Contrasts: dark green, blue, bronze

Great Color Partners: gold, orange, red

Culture Notes

This heavenly bamboo looks best in full sun to light or open shade. The foliage colors are more brilliant with more sun. It is drought tolerant once established but looks better with occasional summer watering. Because it seldom flowers in the cooler areas of the Pacific Northwest, it rarely has berries in the fall. It needs almost no pruning, only remove dead or broken limbs.



© Richie Steffen / Great Plant Picks

Quick Facts

Plant Type: compact shrub

Foliage Type: evergreen

Plant Height: 3 ft. 0 in. (0.91 m.)

Plant Width/Spread: 3 ft. 0 in. (0.91 m.)

Hardiness: USDA Zones 6 to 9

Sun/Light Exposure: full sun to light or open shade

Water Requirements: drought tolerant once established

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Hillside Creeper Scotch Pine

Scientific name: *Pinus sylvestris* "Hillside Creeper"

Taxonomy

Family: Pinaceae
Type: Groundcovers evergreen
Native: NO

Plant Requirements

Zone: 2 to 8
Sun: Full sun

Plant Characteristics

Height: 2 ft
Width: 8 ft

Additional Characteristics

Trees

- ☐ Small lot suitable
- ☐ Flowering tree
- ☐ Safe for beneath power lines

Fruit

- ☐ Showy
- ☐ Edible

Leaves

- ☒ Good Fall color
- ☐ Leaves fragrant
- ☐ Gold foliage
- ☒ Evergreen

Bark

- ☐ Showy

Wildlife value

- ☐ Attract hummingbirds
- ☐ Attract butterflies
- ☐ Attract birds

Poisonous

- ☐ Foliage
- ☐ Fruit

Description

A strong-growing, prostrate ground covering pine creating a beautiful spreading and undulating look.

Morphology:

This Scotch pine cultivar is a fast-growing (12"+ per year), dense, spreading, needled evergreen. Over the first 8-10 years, it typically grows 2' tall but spreads to 8' wide. Older plants will grow more slowly. Needles are in bundles of 2, and have a twisted shape. During the winter the needles are light green in color.

Adaptation:

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil. It would be a good choice for the xeriscaped landscape. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments.

Pests:

None reported.

Images



Groundcover form

For assistance, contact Dr. Charles Brun (brunc@wsu.edu), (360) 397-6060 5701
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***Geranium* 'Gerwat' ^{PBR} ROZANNE®**

HARDY GERANIUM

CRANESBILL

Outstanding Qualities

Geranium 'Gerwat' ROZANNE is a relatively new but outstanding hardy geranium. It is noted for its long bloom time - from June until frost in some areas - producing many large, 2.5-inch, clear blue flowers with white centers. These rise above the leaves to about 15 inches high. The foliage of ROZANNE forms a tidy mound to about 10 inches high and 18 inches wide. Use it at the front of a perennial or mixed shrub border, over a large rock wall or between boulders. Grow it in a container with other perennials. Combine it with grasses, sedums, astrantias, and eryngiums.

Colors & Combos

Great Color Contrasts: gold, orange, chartreuse, silver

Great Color Partners: pink, purple, white

Culture Notes

This hardy geranium prefers full sun but tolerates light or open shade with rich moist to well-drained soils. For the longest flowering and best bloom provide regular watering during prolonged dry spells. Cut it to the ground in late fall or early winter. This vigorous grower can be divided every three to four years in late winter to early spring.



© Richie Steffen / Great Plant Picks

Quick Facts

Plant Type: spreading perennial

Foliage Type: deciduous

Plant Height: 1 ft. 6 in. (0.46 m.)

Plant Width/Spread: 1 ft. 2 in.
(0.37 m.)

Hardiness: USDA Zones 5 to 8

Flower Color: blue, white

Sun/Light Exposure: full sun

Water Requirements: regular
watering during prolonged dry spells



Berberis verruculosa

WARTY BARBERRY

Outstanding Qualities

Warty barberry is a naturally dense grower with delicately arching branches. The small, dark evergreen leaves have bright, bluish-white undersides that add a dash of color to the shrub. However, all of this comes with a bite - the hidden stems are full of needle-sharp spines that make *Berberis verruculosa* an excellent barrier hedge. This tough, adaptable shrub with its distinct architectural form is a perfect choice for low-maintenance landscapes. In winter the foliage takes on a burgundy blush followed in spring by canary-yellow flowers that dangle along the underside of the stems.

Colors & Combos

Great Plant Combinations: Forsythia 'Fiesta', Helictotrichon sempervirens, Panicum virgatum 'Shenandoah', Cotoneaster adpressus 'Little Gem', Hebe topiaria, Viburnum davidii

Great Color Contrasts: red, white, yellow

Great Color Partners: blue, bronze, chartreuse

Culture Notes

This evergreen barberry will maintain its most compact form and flower best in full sun to light shade. It will tolerate open or dappled shade but will have fewer flowers and a more open habit. It prefers a well-drained soil and will tolerate sandy and clay sites. Once established it is drought tolerant. Very little pruning is needed and can ruin its wonderfully layered habit. Only remove dead or broken branches or those limbs that are poorly formed.



© Sten Porse

Quick Facts

Plant Type: mounding shrub

Foliage Type: evergreen

Plant Height: 4 ft. 0 in. (1.22 m.)

Plant Width/Spread: 5 ft. 0 in. (1.52 m.)

Hardiness: USDA Zones 6 to 9

Flower Color: yellow

Sun/Light Exposure: full sun or light shade

Water Requirements: drought tolerant when established