

Sasaba False Holly



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Osmanthus heterophyllus 'Sasaba'

Height: 6 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Sunlight: ○ ●

Hardiness Zone: 7a

Other Names: Tea Olive, Olive Holly, Holly-Leaf Osmanthus

Description:

This cultivar is similar in looks to holly, but it's actually related to lilac and privet; interesting blue-green leaves are deeply cut, forming stiff, sharp, triangular lobes; subtle flowers are very fragrant, blooming in fall; more adaptable than holly

Ornamental Features

Sasaba False Holly's attractive deeply cut pointy leaves remain bluish-green in colour with distinctive light green veins and tinges of buttery yellow throughout the year on a plant with an oval habit of growth. It features subtle fragrant white flowers along the branches in mid fall.

Landscape Attributes

Sasaba False Holly is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen perennial with a shapely oval form. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cut back to the ground in late winter before active growth resumes. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spiny

Sasaba False Holly is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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



Sasaba False Holly foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Sasaba False Holly
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Planting & Growing

Sasaba False Holly will grow to be about 6 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 6 feet. 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. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. 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. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.