

Patty's Secret Osmanthus



Patty's Secret Osmanthus

Osmanthus x fortunei 'Patty's Secret'

Height: 20 feet

Spread: 15 feet

Sunlight: ○ ●

Hardiness Zone: 7b

Other Names: Tea Olive, Sweet Olive

Description:

An excellent large shrub or small tree, featuring dark green, spiny, lustrous leaves that are holly-like; ideal for large containers, or as an accent or screen; covered with fragrant, creamy white flowers in fall; more adaptable than holly

Ornamental Features

Patty's Secret Osmanthus is covered in stunning fragrant white tubular flowers along the branches in early fall. Its attractive small spiny oval leaves emerge red in spring, turning dark green in colour the rest of the year.

Landscape Attributes

Patty's Secret Osmanthus is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. 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 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

Patty's Secret Osmanthus is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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



Patty's Secret Osmanthus
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Planting & Growing

Patty's Secret Osmanthus will grow to be about 20 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 15 feet. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. Although it is technically a woody plant, this 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 does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid.

Patty's Secret Osmanthus is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Its large size and upright habit of growth lend it for use as a solitary accent, or in a composition surrounded by smaller plants around the base 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.