

Ruscus aculeatus

(Butcher's broom,)

Ruscus is a low growing sub-shrub, with dense evergreen prickly foliage. Its small greenish flowers appear in spring, having no landscape interest. It bears very attractive red berries in fall. It is ideal in a naturalistic woodland setting, flourishing under shade. Though not highly attractive, it is useful as ground cover. It grows 1m tall by 2m spread and is a drought tolerant plant. Its spiny growth can deter unwanted visitors but attracts wildlife to feed or nest. It is an all round tough plant suitable for problem areas with valuable winter interest. Evergreen foliage for all year round colour and screening. N.B: all plant parts are toxic if ingested.



Plant Image

Landscape Information

French Name: Fragon, Fragon épineux, Petit houx

Pronunciation: RUS-kus ah-kew-lee-AY-tus

Plant Type: Shrub

Origin: UK

Heat Zones:

Hardiness Zones: 7, 8, 9

Uses: Specimen, Wildlife, Cut Flowers / Arrangements

Size/Shape

Growth Rate: Moderate

Tree Shape: Upright

Canopy Symmetry: Symmetrical

Canopy Density: Open

Canopy Texture: Fine

Height at Maturity: 0.5 to 1 m

Spread at Maturity: 0.5 to 1 meter

Time to Ultimate Height: 5 to 10 Years

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Flower Image

Botanical Description

Foliage

Leaf Arrangement: Alternate

Leaf Venation: Nearly Invisible

Leaf Persistence: Evergreen

Leaf Type: Simple

Leaf Blade: Less than 5

Leaf Shape: Lanceolate

Leaf Margins: Entire

Leaf Textures: Leathery, Glossy

Leaf Scent:

Color(growing season): Green

Color(changing season): Green

Flower

Flower Showiness: False

Flower Scent: No Fragrance

Flower Color: Green

Seasons: Spring

Trunk

Number of Trunks: Multi-Trunked

Fruit

Fruit Showiness: True

Fruit Size Range: 0 - 1.5

Fruit Colors: Green

Seasons: Spring

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Leaf Image

Horticulture Management

Tolerance

Frost Tolerant: Yes

Drought Tolerant: No

Requirements

Soil Requirements: Clay, Loam, Sand

Soil Ph Requirements: Acidic, Neutral

Water Requirements: Moderate, Low

Light Requirements: Part, Shade

Management

Toxicity: Yes

Susceptibility to Pests and Diseases: No

Fruit/ Leaves/ Flowers litter: No

Surface Rooting: No

Life Span: Less than 25

Edible Parts:

Plant Propagations: Seed, Division

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Fruit Image



Other Image