

## 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

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#### 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

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#### Flower

**Flower Showiness:** False

**Flower Scent:** No Fragrance

**Flower Color:** Green

**Seasons:** Spring

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#### Trunk

**Number of Trunks:** Multi-Trunked

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#### Fruit

**Fruit Showiness:** True

**Fruit Size Range:** 0 - 1.5

**Fruit Colors:** Green

**Seasons:** Spring

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Leaf Image

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### Horticulture Management

#### Tolerance

**Frost Tolerant:** Yes

**Drought Tolerant:** No

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#### Requirements

**Soil Requirements:** Clay, Loam, Sand

**Soil Ph Requirements:** Acidic, Neutral

**Water Requirements:** Moderate, Low

**Light Requirements:** Part, Shade

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#### Management

**Toxity:** 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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## MORE IMAGES



Fruit Image



Other Image