

Osmanthus fragrans

(Sweet Osmanthus, fragrant Tea olive)

Sweet Tea Olive is large evergreen shrub or small tree is capable of reaching 6-8 m in height and width but is most often seen at 3-4 m high with a 2 m spread. The shiny, medium-green leaves have paler undersides and are joined from October through March by a multitude of small, but extremely fragrant, white blossoms. They perfume a large area of the landscape and can be showy in some years. The plant has a upright oval to columnar growth habit in youth. Sweet Osmanthus is ideal for use as an unclipped hedge or trained as a small tree, and should be placed where its fragrance can be enjoyed. Since the flowers are not particularly showy, people will wonder where the delightful fragrance is coming from. Sweet Osmanthus should be grown in full sun or partial shade in well-drained soil. Plants are fairly drought-tolerant once established but will perform their best with ample moisture. Needs acidic soil to grow in.



Plant Image

Landscape Information

French Name: Osmanthe fragrante, Osmanthe parfumée

Pronunciation: oz-MANTH-us FRAY-granz

Plant Type: Shrub

Origin: Japan, China

Heat Zones: 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

Hardiness Zones: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11

Uses: Screen, Hedge, Container

Size/Shape

Growth Rate: Slow

Tree Shape: Round

Canopy Symmetry: Symmetrical

Canopy Density: Medium

Canopy Texture: Medium

Height at Maturity: 3 to 5 m

Spread at Maturity: 3 to 5 meters

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Flower Image

Botanical Description

Foliage

Leaf Arrangement: Opposite

Leaf Venation: Pinnate

Leaf Persistence: Evergreen

Leaf Type: Simple

Leaf Blade: 5 - 10 cm

Leaf Shape: Oval

Leaf Margins: Spiny

Leaf Textures: Smooth

Leaf Scent: Pleasant

Color(growing season): Green

Color(changing season): Green

Flower

Flower Showiness: True

Flower Size Range: 1.5 - 3

Flower Sexuality: Monoecious (Bisexual)

Flower Scent: Pleasant

Flower Color: White

Seasons: Spring, Summer, Fall

Trunk

Trunk Susceptibility to Breakage: Generally resists breakage

Number of Trunks: Multi-Trunked

Trunk Esthetic Values: Not Showy

Fruit

Fruit Type: Drupe

Fruit Showiness: False

Fruit Size Range: 1.5 - 3

Fruit Colors: Purple

Seasons: Spring

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Leaf Image

Horticulture Management

Tolerance

Frost Tolerant: Yes

Heat Tolerant: No

Drought Tolerant: No

Salt Tolerance: Poor

Requirements

Soil Requirements: Clay, Loam, Sand

Soil Ph Requirements: Acidic

Water Requirements: Moderate

Light Requirements: Full, Part

Management

Toxity: No

Invasive Potential: No

Susceptibility to Pests and Diseases: No

Pruning Requirement: Little needed, to develop a strong structure

Fruit/ Leaves/ Flowers litter: No

Surface Rooting: No

Life Span: 25-50 years

Edible Parts: None

Pests: Nematodes, Scales

Plant Propagations: Cutting

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