

Photinia x fraseri

(Fraser Photinia, Red tip)

Photinia x fraseri is known for its color leaf that changes as it matures, passing through shades of reddish-copper and eventually maturing to a rich dark green. The shrub typically grows 3.1-3.7 m in height. Small white flowers appear in spring arranged in flat-domed clusters. Most people don't see the showy white flower clusters borne at the ends of the branches in the summer because they regularly prune the new growth. The red tip (P. x fraseri) is a hybrid that resembles a supersized version of one of its parents, the Japanese photinia (P. glabra) which is smaller in stature and leaf size. Japanese photinia blooms later in the season and forms red berries that ripen to black while red tip only occasionally produce a few red berries. The other parent is Chinese photinia (P. serrulata) which grows taller and has more leathery leaves that are bronze when young. Extremely tough and vigorous, red tip grows in almost any adequately drained soil (avoid soggy spots) and on sun to partial shade. It is not salt tolerant, but withstands intense heat. It needs some chilling in winter, and does not thrive in tropical conditions. It may be pruned to shape and control size anytime in spring or summer. Red tip is used to create tall hedges. Dense growth allows these to serve as effective barriers that are beautiful and functional. Planted in a mixed shrub border, the red tip adds considerable interest with its contrasting red, bronze and green foliage. By pruning lower branches, individual shrubs can be trained into small trees. This shrub is subject to entomosporium leaf spot, a fungus, which must be controlled or it will cause gradual thinning, defoliation, and plant death. Spray with fungicide at first sign of infestation.



Plant Image

Landscape Information

French Name: Photinia de Fraser

Pronunciation: foe-TIN-nee-uh x FRAY-zer-eye

Plant Type: Shrub

Heat Zones: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

Hardiness Zones: 7, 8, 9

Uses: Screen, Hedge, Specimen, Container, Wildlife, Street, Pollution Tolerant / Urban

Size/Shape

Growth Rate: Moderate

Tree Shape: Round

Canopy Symmetry: Symmetrical

Canopy Density: Dense

Canopy Texture: Medium

Height at Maturity: 3 to 5 m

Spread at Maturity: 3 to 5 meters

Time to Ultimate Height: 10 to 20 Years

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Flower Image

Botanical Description

Foliage

Leaf Arrangement: Alternate

Leaf Venation: Pinnate

Leaf Persistence: Evergreen

Leaf Type: Simple

Leaf Blade: 5 - 10 cm

Leaf Margins: Serrate

Leaf Textures: Rough, Glossy

Leaf Scent:

Color(growing season): Green

Color(changing season): Green

Flower

Flower Showiness: True

Flower Scent: Pleasant

Flower Color: White

Seasons: Summer

Trunk

Trunk Susceptibility to Breakage: Generally resists breakage

Number of Trunks: Can be trained to one trunk

Fruit

Fruit Showiness: False

Fruit Size Range: 0 - 1.5

Fruit Colors: Red

Seasons: Summer

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Leaf Image

Horticulture Management

Tolerance

Frost Tolerant: Yes

Drought Tolerant: Yes

Salt Tolerance: Poor

Requirements

Soil Requirements: Clay, Loam, Sand

Soil Ph Requirements: Neutral, Alkaline

Water Requirements: Moderate

Light Requirements: Full

Management

Invasive Potential: No

Susceptibility to Pests and Diseases: Yes

Pruning Requirement: Little needed, to develop a strong structure

Fruit/ Leaves/ Flowers litter: No

Surface Rooting: No

Life Span: Less than 25

Edible Parts:

Pests: Mites, Caterpillars, Scales

Plant Propagations: Cutting

MORE IMAGES



Fruit Image



Bark Image



Other Image