**Aucuba japonica**  
(Aucuba, Japanese Acuba, Japanese Laurel)

Aucuba japonica is a very slow-growing evergreen shrub that tolerates a wide range of soils (sandy and loamy), performs well in deep shade, and has attractive glossy green leaves and bright-red fruit. The variegated forms brighten any area in the landscape with deep shade. Leaves on plants receiving sun in the summer or winter will become chlorotic.

### Landscape Information

**French Name:** Aucuba du Japon  
**Pronunciation:** aw-KEW-buh juh-PAW-nick-uh  
**Plant Type:** Shrub  
**Origin:** Japan  
**Heat Zones:** 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12  
**Hardiness Zones:** 7, 8, 9, 10  
**Uses:** Specimen, Border Plant, Mass Planting, Container, Wildlife, Cut Flowers / Arrangements

### Size/Shape

**Growth Rate:** Slow  
**Tree Shape:** Round  
**Canopy Symmetry:** Symmetrical  
**Canopy Density:** Medium  
**Canopy Texture:** Medium  
**Height at Maturity:** 1.5 to 3 m  
**Spread at Maturity:** 1 to 1.5 meters  
**Time to Ultimate Height:** 5 to 10 Years
### Aucuba japonica
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Botanical Description</th>
<th>Foliage</th>
<th>Flower</th>
<th>Trunk</th>
<th>Fruit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Leaf Arrangement:</strong> Opposite</td>
<td><strong>Leaf Venation:</strong> Pinnate</td>
<td><strong>Flower Showiness:</strong> True</td>
<td><strong>Trunk Susceptibility to Breakage:</strong> Generally resists breakage</td>
<td><strong>Fruit Type:</strong> Berry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Leaf Persistence:</strong> Evergreen</td>
<td><strong>Leaf Type:</strong> Simple</td>
<td><strong>Flower Size Range:</strong> 0 - 1.5</td>
<td><strong>Number of Trunks:</strong> Multi-Trunked</td>
<td><strong>Fruit Showiness:</strong> True</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Leaf Blade:</strong> 5 - 10 cm</td>
<td><strong>Leaf Shape:</strong> Lanceolate</td>
<td><strong>Flower Type:</strong> Solitary</td>
<td><strong>Trunk Esthetic Values:</strong> Not Showy</td>
<td><strong>Fruit Size Range:</strong> 1.5 - 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Leaf Margins:</strong> Serrate</td>
<td><strong>Leaf Texture:</strong> Leathery</td>
<td><strong>Flower Sexuality:</strong> Diecious (Monosexual)</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Fruit Colors:</strong> Green, Red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Leaf Scent:</strong> No Fragrance</td>
<td><strong>Leaf Scent:</strong> No Fragance</td>
<td><strong>Flower Scent:</strong> No Fragance</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Seasons:</strong> Spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Color (growing season):</strong> Green, Yellow</td>
<td><strong>Color (changing season):</strong> Green, Yellow</td>
<td><strong>Flower Color:</strong> Green, Red</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Flower Image

Flower Image

Flower Image
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### Horticulture Management

#### Tolerance
- Frost Tolerant: Yes
- Heat Tolerant: Yes
- Drought Tolerant: No
- Salt Tolerance: Poor

#### Requirements
- Soil Requirements: Loam, Sand
- Soil pH Requirements: Acidic, Neutral
- Water Requirements: Moderate
- Light Requirements: Part, Shade

#### Management
- Toxity: Yes
- Invasive Potential: Yes
- 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
- Plant Propagations: Cutting

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**Leaf Image**