

## Elaeagnus pungens

### (Silverthorn, Thorny Elaeagnus)

Silver-thorn is a sprawling fast growing shrub with a gray-greenish glossy oval leaves. Silverthorn doesn't have actual thorns and actually there aren't that many of these non-thorns on the plants anyway . The shrub can reach 3.5-4 m in height. The small, highly fragrant, ivory-white flower clusters appear in winter and early spring, followed in late spring by red, edible fruits that are popular with birds. The plant prefers full or partial sun, Water when dry for best growth, but silver-thorn is able to withstand drought even in light sandy soil. Also adaptable plant for salt spray and so is a good choice for coastal locations Constantly wet, soggy soil will kill. Silverthorn responds well to pruning and makes an excellent evergreen hedge and barrier.



Plant Image

#### Landscape Information

**Pronunciation:** el-lee-AG-nus PUN-jenz

**Plant Type:** Shrub

**Origin:** China, Japan

**Heat Zones:** 7, 8, 9

**Hardiness Zones:** 7, 8, 9

**Uses:** Screen, Hedge, Espalier, Mass Planting, Container, Edible, Wildlife, Reclamation

#### Size/Shape

**Growth Rate:** Fast

**Tree Shape:** Spreading

**Canopy Symmetry:** Irregular

**Canopy Density:** Dense

**Canopy Texture:** Fine

**Height at Maturity:** 3 to 5 m

**Spread at Maturity:** 1.5 to 3 meters

**Time to Ultimate Height:** 5 to 10 Years

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Flower Image

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## Botanical Description

### Foliage

**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate

**Leaf Venation:** Pinnate

**Leaf Persistence:** Evergreen

**Leaf Type:** Simple

**Leaf Blade:** 5 - 10 cm

**Leaf Shape:** Ovate

**Leaf Margins:** Undulate

**Leaf Textures:** Rough

**Leaf Scent:** No Fragrance

**Color(growing season):** Green

**Color(changing season):** Green

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### Flower

**Flower Showiness:** True

**Flower Size Range:** 1.5 - 3

**Flower Type:** Solitary

**Flower Sexuality:** Monoecious (Bisexual)

**Flower Scent:** Pleasant

**Flower Color:** White

**Seasons:** Spring, Winter

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### Trunk

**Trunk Susceptibility to Breakage:** Generally resists breakage

**Number of Trunks:** Multi-Trunked

**Trunk Esthetic Values:** Spines

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### Fruit

**Fruit Type:** Drupe

**Fruit Showiness:** True

**Fruit Size Range:** 1.5 - 3

**Fruit Colors:** Orange, Red

**Seasons:** Spring, Winter

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Leaf Image

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## Horticulture Management

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### Tolerance

**Frost Tolerant:** Yes

**Heat Tolerant:** Yes

**Drought Tolerant:** Yes

**Salt Tolerance:** Good

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### Requirements

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

**Soil Ph Requirements:** Acidic, Neutral, Alkaline

**Water Requirements:** Moderate, Low

**Light Requirements:** Part

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### Management

**Invasive Potential:** Yes

**Susceptibility to Pests and Diseases:** No

**Pruning Requirement:** Needed, to develop a strong structure

**Fruit/ Leaves/ Flowers litter:** No

**Surface Rooting:** No

**Life Span:** 25-50 years

**Diseases:** Leaf Spots

**Edible Parts:** Fruit, None

**Plant Propagations:** Seed, Cutting

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## MORE IMAGES



Fruit Image



© Photo by Monika Fabian

Other Image