

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

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

Trunk

Trunk Susceptibility to Breakage: Generally resists breakage

Number of Trunks: Multi-Trunked

Trunk Esthetic Values: Spines

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

© Photo by Monika Fabian

Horticulture Management

Tolerance

Frost Tolerant: Yes

Heat Tolerant: Yes

Drought Tolerant: Yes

Salt Tolerance: Good

Requirements

Soil Requirements: Clay, Loam, Sand

Soil Ph Requirements: Acidic, Neutral, Alkaline

Water Requirements: Moderate, Low

Light Requirements: Part

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

MORE IMAGES



Fruit Image



Other Image