Sweetshrub, Aphrodite

Calycanthus 'Aphrodite'



Sweetshrub, Aphrodite flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 10 feet

Spread: 10 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5a

Other Names: Carolina Allspice, Spicebush, Strawberry Shrub

Description:

A tall rounded shrub with reliable sweet spicy fragrance emanating from interesting, magnolia-like red flowers; plant along a walkway or driveway where the flower fragrance can be enjoyed by passers-by; blooms on new and old wood



Sweetshrub, Aphrodite in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Sweetshrub, Aphrodite has fragrant semi-double red spider-like flowers with dark red eyes and a buttery yellow ring along the branches from mid summer to early fall. It has dark green deciduous foliage. The glossy oval leaves turn an outstanding gold in the fall.

Landscape Attributes

Sweetshrub, Aphrodite is a dense multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Sweetshrub, Aphrodite is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use

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Planting & Growing

Sweetshrub, Aphrodite will grow to be about 10 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 10 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 years.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist locations, and should do just fine under average home landscape conditions. This plant should be periodically fertilized throughout the active growing season with a specially-formulated acidic fertilizer. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid.