Honeysuckle, Purple Leaf Japanese

Lonicera japonica 'Purpurea'



Honeysuckle, Purple Leaf Japanese flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 15 feet

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4a

Other Names: Purple Leaved Japanese Honeysuckle

Description:

A ubiquitous and rather vigorous vine which is highly cherished for its strongly fragrant purplish-red flowers and purple tinged foliage; quite aggressive, can get a little weedy in the wrong place, but ideal for a fragrant cover for a fence or wall

Ornamental Features

Honeysuckle, Purple Leaf Japanese is covered in stunning clusters of fragrant red trumpet-shaped flowers with purple overtones at the ends of the branches from late spring to late summer. It has attractive deep purple-variegated green foliage. The pointy leaves are highly ornamental and remain green throughout the winter. It produces black berries from late summer to late fall.



Honeysuckle, Purple Leaf Japanese foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Honeysuckle, Purple Leaf Japanese is an open multi-stemmed evergreen woody vine with a twining and trailing 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 high maintenance woody vine that will require regular care and upkeep, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Invasive

Honeysuckle, Purple Leaf Japanese is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover

Planting & Growing

Honeysuckle, Purple Leaf Japanese will grow to be about 15 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. As a climbing vine, it tends to be leggy near the base and should be underplanted with low-growing facer plants. It should be planted near a fence, trellis or other landscape structure where it can be trained to grow upwards on it, or allowed to trail off a retaining wall or slope. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 25 years.

This woody vine does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average conditions that are neither too wet nor too dry, and is very intolerant of standing water. To help this plant achive its best flowering performance, periodically apply a flower-boosting fertilizer from early spring through into the active growing season. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.