



Mahonia × media 'Arthur Menzies'

HYBRID MAHONIA

Outstanding Qualities

This statuesque, evergreen shrub is a stellar specimen for the winter garden. 'Arthur Menzies' has dramatic, frond-like leaves that grow in whorls along its coarsely branched stems. Great sprays of gold flowers appear in winter, developing into grape-like clusters of wax-coated black berries by late summer and autumn. Beautiful foliage and upright growth habit make this hybrid mahonia a strong focal point in the garden. Plant it with *Daphne odora* 'Aureomarginata', *Stachyurus praecox*, *Helleborus x hybridus*, *Carex testacea* and *Cyclamen coum*. 'Arthur Menzies' originated at Seattle's Washington Park Arboretum. Seedlings germinated at Strybing Arboretum (San Francisco) of the frost-tender *Mahonia lomariifolia* were grown on in Seattle. (The original seed was from the garden of Arthur Menzies.) From the beginning this clone looked different from its siblings. After the very cold winter of 1962, it alone survived. Its relative hardiness indicated that it was a hybrid, most likely of *M. bealei*. It was named by Washington Park Arboretum curator Brian Mulligan for his colleague Arthur Menzies (1916 to 1973). Menzies worked at Strybing from about 1953, until his untimely death, at which time he was Assistant Director.

Culture Notes

This hybrid mahonia is tough. It will grow well in full sun to dappled shade. It prefers a well-drained soil, but will tolerate sandy sites and clay. Once established it is drought tolerant, although plants in full sun can yellow if kept excessively dry. Occasional watering during dry weather will help plants in sun to maintain a rich green foliage color. Prune the tips in early spring, while the plant is young, to make a fuller bushier specimen. Older plants need little pruning other than the removal of dead, broken or poorly formed limbs.



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Quick Facts

Plant Type: shrub

Growth Habit: vase-shaped

Foliage Type: evergreen

Plant Height (10-year): 8 ft. 0 in. (2.44 meters)

Plant Width/Spread (10-year): 5 ft. 0 in. (1.52 meters)

Plant Height-Mature: 15 ft. 0 in. (4.57 meters)

Plant Width-Mature: 8 ft. 0 in. (2.44 meters)

Hardiness: USDA Zones 7 to 9

Flower Color: yellow

Sun/Light Exposure: full sun to dappled shade

Water Requirements: Occasional watering during dry weather. Once established, drought tolerant

Wildlife Associations: birds