



Sarcococca confusa

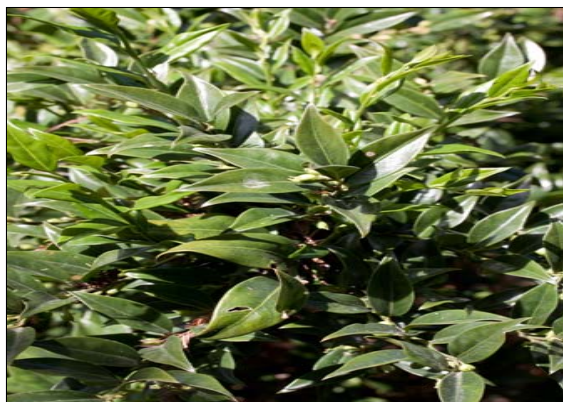
SWEET BOX

Outstanding Qualities

This shrub has so many outstanding qualities, almost every garden should have one! First, there is its superb winter fragrance, that floats on the breeze in January and February. This intoxicating perfume of sweet vanilla, which is never cloying, comes from the tiny white flowers hidden among its evergreen leaves. The foliage is glossy and dark green, with a little twist to each leaf that adds texture to the shrub. Sweet box thrives in shade, where its leaf color is deepest green. It tolerates dry conditions once it is established, making it a good choice for under eaves and in dark, dry locations. Keep it out of hot afternoon sun or the leaves will scorch. If *Sarcococca confusa* is happy, its seedlings will germinate beneath-transplant them or give them to friends. Sweet box also makes a lovely, low hedge.

Culture Notes

Sweet box grows best in light to deep shade in locations protected from hot afternoon sun. It prefers a rich moist to well-drained soil, but will tolerate sandy locations and clay if the drainage is adequate. Once established it is drought tolerant, but appreciates occasional watering during long, dry spells. It is slow to become established, often taking a couple of years to settle in. Little pruning is needed other than the occasional removal of dead or broken branches. In severe and sudden cold snaps it can defoliate, but it will leaf out in spring.



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Quick Facts

Plant Type: shrub

Foliage Type: evergreen

Plant Height (10-year): 3 ft. 0 in. (0.91 meters)

Plant Width/Spread (10-year): 2 ft. 0 in. (0.61 meters)

Plant Height-Mature: 5 ft. 0 in. (1.52 meters)

Plant Width-Mature: 4 ft. 0 in. (1.22 meters)

Hardiness: USDA Zones 6 to 9

Flower Color: white

Flowering Time: winter

Sun/Light Exposure: light, open, dappled, or deep shade

Water Requirements: drought tolerant once established, but appreciates occasional water during very long dry spells

Seasonal Interest: tiny fragrant flowers in winter along with year-round dark evergreen foliage

Resistant to: deer