



## *Sarcococca hookeriana* var. *humilis*

### DWARF SWEET BOX

#### Outstanding Qualities

Small, evergreen, shade-loving shrubs are hard to find in the Northwest, but this sweetbox fits the bill with its fragrant white flowers in early spring and blue-black berries in summer. This plant may also be used as a ground cover.

#### 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):** 1 ft. 6 in. (0.46 meters)

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

**Plant Height-Mature:** 2 ft. 0 in. (0.61 meters)

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

**Hardiness:** USDA Zones 6 to 9

**Flower Color:** white

**Flowering Time:** spring

**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