

Botanical Name: Laurus nobilis

Common Name: Sweet Bay, Grecian Laurel

Type of Plant: dicot:tree/shrub Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape a very erect, single or multi-trunked, densely branched plant; becomes pyramidal-cone shaped with age

Height 10-30' (50') Spread 1/2-1/3 Growth Rate slow

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full or partial sun

Soil deep well-draining loam preferred; grows poorly in alkaline

Hardiness Hardy (zones 5-9, 12-24)

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, alternate, oval-elliptic; 2-4" long, very aromatic when crushed; upper surface is dark green, lower pale green

Flowers inconspicuous, small, yellow, in axillary or terminal clusters; late spring-summer

Fruit a berry: dark purplish-black, oval, 1/2-1" long

Propagation: seed, hardwood cuttings

Usage: a vertical accent or topiary for formal landscapes; large background screen or hedge; large container plant

Landscape Care:

Watering regular preferred; tolerates heavy irrigation if drainage is good; grows poorly if water-stressed

Fertilizing balanced, in spring; check for iron chlorosis

Pruning to shape desired, anytime; makes good topiary

Pests/Diseases scale

Special Conditions

Origin: Europe Family: Lauraceae