

Botanical Name: Ternstroemia gymnanthera

Common Name: Ternstroemia

Type of Plant: dicot; shrub Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape upright, stiff, woody, fairly dense shrub with an oval to rounded canopy; new growth tends to be reddish, fading to a bronzy green

Height 3-6' (10') Spread 2/3-equal Growth Rate slow

Environment:

Exposure outdoors partial shade to full shade (full sun along the coast)

Soil prefers moist cool, acidic soil; avoid alkaline soils

Hardiness hardy (zones 4-9, 12-24)

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, alternate/whorled, obovate, 2-6" long, dark green foliage, pale beneath, petioles maroon-red

Flowers small, pale whitish yellow, 1/3-1/2" on short axillary stalks, solitary, fragrant; summer

Fruit round, berry like capsule, yellow orange, 1/2" long

Propagation: seed, semihardwood cuttings

Usage: medium sized filler or small background--for dark foliage
informal hedge, tub plant -- cool woodsy, tropical landscapes -- use with
ferns, camellias, azaleas, etc.

Landscape Care:

Watering prefers regular watering; fairly shallow rooted

Fertilizing balanced in spring, plus iron

Pruning selectively head back to encourage denser growth

Pests/Diseases scale, mealy bug, chlorosis in heavy soils

Special Conditions mulch frequently to keep soil moist and cool

Origin: Japan, East Asia Family: Theaceae