

Botanical Name: Calycanthus occidentalis

Common Name: Spice bush

Type of Plant: dicot: shrub Character deciduous

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape a large, fairly rounded shrub; is rather dense and compact if grown in full sun, much looser and rangy in shaded location

Height 3' - 6' (12') Spread equal or more Growth Rate moderate

Environment:

Exposure outdoors tolerates both full sun and partial shade; thrives in warm locations having afternoon shade

Soil prefers moist well-draining sites; tolerates most except highly alkaline

Hardiness hardy (zones 4-9, 14-24): best in foothill-valley areas away from coast

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, opposite, ovate-lanceolate, bright green; 2"-6" long, aromatic if crushed

Flowers reddish-brown or maroon, solitary, 2"-3" across; resembles water lilies in shape; April - September

Fruit a small achene

Propagation: seed

Usage: an excellent large filler or background shrub, useful for its bright green foliage and distinctive red-maroon flowers; good for mass-screening in moist locations receiving some shade; woodlands theme, casual-theme gardens

Landscape Care:

Watering prefers regular; tolerates some drought if grown in shaded locations

Fertilizing a balanced fertilizer in spring promotes lush growth if plant receives frequent irrigation

Pruning head back and thin out canopy in late fall-winter after bloom to retain size and promote new flowering wood

Pests/Diseases relatively free

Special Conditions good as a connector between sunny-shady locations foothills of Sierra Nevada

Origin: and north coast range Family: Calycanthaceae