

CLEYERA

Ternstroemia gymnanthera



Characteristics

- Type: Shrub
- Zone: 7 to 10
- Height: 8-10 feet
- Spread: 5-6 feet
- Bloom Color: White flowers and black fruit
- Bloom Time: May to June
- Flower: Showy, Fragrant
- Sun: Sun to part shade
- Water: Medium
- Soil: Moist, well-drained
- Maintenance: Low

Culture

Cleyera is prized for its versatility. It makes a good accent shrub, foundation plant, container plant or hedge. In the landscape it requires little care. Cleyera is drought tolerant and has no major pest or disease problems. Cleyera grows best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers moist, well-drained acidic soil. Leaves will turn yellow if the soil is alkaline. The plant reaches 8-10 feet tall and 5-6 feet wide. It's suitable for USDA Hardiness Zones 7-10. The overall form is upright oval to rounded. Some sources say cleyera can tolerate salt spray. In spring, cleyera has small, yellow-white flowers that are very fragrant. They're followed by yellow to dark-red fruits, which gradually split open revealing black seeds.

Noteworthy Characteristics

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Named after Christopher Ternstroem, Swedish naturalist and traveller in China, died 1748.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Leaf spot.

Garden Uses

Borders, hedges, screens and foundations.