

GULF STREAM NANDINA

Nandina domestica



Characteristics

- Type: Shrub
- Zone: 6 to 9
- Height: 3.00 to 8.00 feet
- Spread: 2.00 to 4.00 feet
- Bloom Colors: White with yellow anthers
- Bloom Time: June
- Flower: Showy
- Sun: Full sun to part shade
- Water: Medium
- Maintenance: Medium

Culture

Easily grown in average, medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Some tolerance for full shade, but foliage often grows best in sun with some afternoon shade. Tolerates a wide range of soils, but prefers rich, moist, humusy ones. Best with consistent watering. Established plants have some drought tolerance. Best fruiting occurs when grown in groups. Single specimens may fruit poorly. This shrub is evergreen in the warm winter climates of USDA Zones 8-10. In cooler areas, it is considered to be semi-evergreen to deciduous because plants will typically lose their foliage as soon as winter temperatures dip below 10 degrees F., with the stems sometimes dying to the ground. In these areas, plants are not reliably winter hardy, and if grown therein, should be sited in protected locations with organic winter mulches applied.

Noteworthy characteristics

Nandina domestica, commonly called heavenly bamboo, is a broadleaf evergreen shrub that is ornamentally grown for its interesting foliage and its often spectacular fruit display. It is native to Japan, China and India. This is a rhizomatous, upright, evergreen shrub that typically grows to 4-8' tall and to 2-4' wide. Outside Zones 6-9, it is semi-evergreen to deciduous, and typically grows shorter since the stems often will die to the ground in winter. Although it belongs to the Barberry family, it is commonly called heavenly bamboo because its erect, cane-like stems and compound leaves resemble bamboo. Tiny whitish flowers with yellow anthers appear in late spring in loose, erect, terminal clusters. Flowers are followed by sprays of spherical, two-seeded, red berries which persist from fall to spring, providing winter interest. Additionally, the berries of *Nandina domestica* have been linked to toxicity in cedar waxwing birds.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Foliage may develop chlorosis in alkaline soils.

Garden Uses

Interesting ornamental, group or mass for best effect.

Courtesy of Missouri Botanical Society Plant Finder