Romeo® Cleyera

Cleyera japonica 'Variegata'

Height: 8 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 6b

Other Names: Ternstroemia gymnanthera

Description:

Striking copper new foliage in spring matures to dark green and buttery yellow, taking on rose tones in winter; perfect along a border, trained up a wall, or in a container; likely to need pruning; susceptible to and should be protected from spider mites



Romeo Cleyera foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Romeo Cleyera has attractive buttery yellow-variegated dark green foliage which emerges coppery-bronze in spring on a plant with an oval habit of growth. The oval leaves are highly ornamental and turn an outstanding rose in the fall, which persists throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Romeo Cleyera is a multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a shapely oval form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This shrub will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Insects

Romeo Cleyera is recommended for the following landscape applications;



Romeo Cleyera foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Romeo Cleyera will grow to be about 8 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 6 feet. It has a low canopy, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 30 years.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is particular about its soil conditions, with a strong preference for rich, acidic soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Romeo Cleyera makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.