Banana Shrub

Magnolia figo

Height: 10 feet

Spread: 10 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 7b

Other Names: Michelia figo, Banana Magnolia

Description:

This desirable shrub has lustrous evergreen leaves and creamy pale yellow flowers in mid to late spring; open magnolia-like flowers are showy, with an intense banana-like fragrance

Ornamental Features

Banana Shrub features showy fragrant buttery yellow cup-shaped flowers with fuchsia edges along the branches from mid to late spring. It has attractive dark green evergreen foliage which emerges light green in spring. The glossy pointy leaves are highly ornamental and remain dark green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Banana Shrub is a multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other landscape plants with finer foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Banana Shrub is recommended for the following landscape applications;



Banana Shrub
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Banana Shrub flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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

Planting & Growing

Banana Shrub will grow to be about 10 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 10 feet. It has a low canopy, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium 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 is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone over the growing season to conserve soil moisture. This species is not originally from North America.



Banana Shrub foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Banana Shrub makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. Its large size and upright habit of growth lend it for use as a solitary accent, or in a composition surrounded by smaller plants around the base 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.