Winter Daphne

Daphne odora

Height: 5 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 7a

Description:

A cherished garden plant with glossy dark green leaves and intoxicating, fragrant white flowers in late winter, on a rounded shrub; needs light shade and well-drained soil; never move once established

Ornamental Features

Winter Daphne is clothed in stunning clusters of fragrant white star-shaped flowers with shell pink overtones at the ends of the branches from late winter to early spring, which emerge from distinctive rose flower buds. It has attractive dark green evergreen foliage. The glossy pointy leaves are highly ornamental and remain dark green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Winter Daphne is a multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a more or less rounded 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 should never be pruned except to remove any dieback, as it tends not to take pruning well. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Disease



Winter Daphne flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Winter Daphne in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Winter Daphne is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Winter Daphne will grow to be about 5 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 5 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front, 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 20 years.



Winter Daphne in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is not originally from North America, and parts of it are known to be toxic to humans and animals, so care should be exercised in planting it around children and pets.

Winter Daphne 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.