Flying Dragon Japanese Bitter Orange

Poncirus trifoliata 'Flying Dragon'

Height: 6 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5b

Other Names: Hardy Orange, Chinese Bitter Orange

Description:

This dwarf variety displays a very contorted and twisted habit of growth; very spiny, place away from walking areas; orange fruit adds tremendous interest all season; a wonderful accent shrub or border planting; shelter in colder areas

Ornamental Features

Flying Dragon Japanese Bitter Orange features showy clusters of lightly-scented white star-shaped flowers at the ends of the branches in early spring before the leaves. The fruits are showy orange pomes carried in abundance in mid summer. It has dark green deciduous foliage which emerges light green in spring. The glossy oval compound leaves turn gold in fall.

Landscape Attributes

Flying Dragon Japanese Bitter Orange is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. 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 is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;



Flying Dragon Japanese Bitter Orange flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Flying Dragon Japanese Bitter Orange in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

- Spiny

Flying Dragon Japanese Bitter Orange is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- General Garden Use

Planting & Growing

Flying Dragon Japanese Bitter Orange will grow to be about 6 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 6 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 60 years or more.



Flying Dragon Japanese Bitter Orange fruit
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 type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.