

Japanese spirea

Spiraea japonica (Family: *Rosaceae*)

Description: Japanese spirea is a very common and favored plant among gardeners, however, it can be an aggressive self-seeder and has even naturalized in the eastern United States. This dense, upright, mounded shrub provides late spring and summer flowers and superb fall color.

Hardiness: USDA hardiness zones 4 to 7.

Natural Habitat: Native to Japan and China.

Mature Size: Height: 4'-6', Spread: 5'-7'

Form (Shape): Mounded; round.

Growth Rate: Fast.

Foliage: Deciduous. Dark green leaves with serrated or toothed margins. Leaves are alternate, simple, and measure 1 to 3 inches long and 1 to 2 inches wide.

Texture: Medium.

Flowers: Tiny white to pink flowers in corymbs.

Fruit: Brown follicles. Not ornamentally significant.

Light: Full sun to partial sun.

Soil: Moist, well-drained soil. Tolerates alkaline and clay soil.

Propagation: Most successfully propagated by stem cuttings.

Failure Patterns: Failure is generally uncommon.

Disease and Insects: No serious insect or disease problems. However, wet soils can promote root rot, powdery mildew, and leaf spots.

Landscape Use: Great addition to rock gardens and foundation plantings. Can be used in mass or group plantings.

Availability: Species is uncommonly sold in retail trade, however numerous cultivars are readily available.