

Garden Notes

January 2025



Soft Caress Mahonia

We are always looking for plants that offer winter interest. The evergreen shrub 'Soft Caress' mahonia will develop bright yellow flowers that extend above foliage in January. On warmer days, bees will visit the flowers.

Plants are suitable for a foundation planting if the area is shaded. Their size is about 3 feet in height by 3.5 in width. They look best in a small grouping of at least three plants. Foliage is an attractive green for the remainder of the year.

Pruning Tips

It is not necessary to top Crape myrtles if you have room for a tree. Blooms form on new growth and you can enjoy an attractive shade-producing tree in the summer months. Remove dead branches, thin out crossing branches, and prune inwardly growing branches. Selective pruning is suitable for Crape myrtles.



Leaving Leaves

We are still in the season for trees to shed leaves. Consider allowing the leaves in plants beds to stay in place as habitat for many animals. The Luna moth uses fallen leaves to protect cocoons and some butterflies hibernate under fallen leaves.

