

Aucuba

Aucuba japonica

This tough, very slow-growing evergreen shrub tolerates a wide range of soils, performs well in deep shade, has attractive glossy green leaves and bright-red fruit. The variegated forms brighten any area in the landscape with deep shade. Leaf variegation differs dramatically from plant to plant; some have leaves with only a few flecks of yellow, whereas others seem to have yellow leaves with a few flecks of green. Aucuba makes a nice house plant, and it performs well in a container in the shade. Aucubas prefer a rich, sandy loam with some organic matter but they will adapt successfully to a heavier soil as long as drainage is good. They are best when used in mass, planted close together because they grow so slowly. Plant two to three feet apart for the best landscape effect. Pruning is seldom necessary because of the slow growth rate. The irregular, multi-stemmed habit of growth makes Aucuba a natural for informal plantings, while the dense, compact form makes it useful as a free-standing specimen in small areas.

Type: shrub

USDA hardiness zones: 7B through 9

Uses: mass planting; container or above-ground planter; foundation; cut foliage/twigs; accent

Origin: not native to North America

Height: 3 to 8 feet **Spread:** 3 to 4 feet

Plant spacing: 24 to 36 inches

Light requirement: plant grows in the shade

Soil tolerances: slightly alkaline; clay; sand; acidic; loam

Drought tolerance: moderate

Soil salt tolerances: poor

Invasive potential: not known to be invasive

Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests; no diseases are of major

**MORE
INFORMATION**



Photo: UF/IFAS