

Osmanthus

Osmanthus (*Oleaceae*)



aquifolium

Origin: Japan. Evergreen shrub with upright, spreading, rounded habit. Leaves from elliptic to ovate, 6-8cm long, 4-5cm wide, leathery with margins that are usually acuminate, glossy dark green on the upper side, pale green underneath. Flowers in summer-autumn, pure white, axillary, not very showy as they are hidden by dense foliage but their presence is felt even at a distance because they leave a strong, sweet fragrance in the air. Very hardy, immune to disease, very resistant to parasites, grows well in all types of soil.

Suitable for planting in groups and for hedges which do not require pruning. It adapts really well to growing in pots and troughs, even when it becomes an adult .

armatus

An evergreen shrub which compared to the previous plant has:

- a more columnar habit, less rounded;
- longer (12cm), darker green leaves;
- creamy white flowers instead of pure white.

Otherwise it is the same as *Osmanthus aquifolium*.



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x burkwoodii (x *Osmarea burkwoodii*)

Origin: England. Evergreen shrub with spreading habit, densely branched. Leathery leaves, 3-5cm, from oval to elliptic, irregularly toothed, vibrant dark green. Abundant, very fragrant white flowers in March-April. Grows well in average garden soil. It is planted as a freestanding specimen, in groups, mixed with other shrubs, as a hedge. Easily grown in containers.

fragrans (*Olea fragrans*)

Origin: Japan, China. Shrub or small tree with upright habit. Glossy green leaves, from elongate to elongate-lanceolate, leathery, up to 10cm long, 5.5cm wide with entire margins or slightly dentate. In autumn it produces few but very fragrant white, tubular flowers followed by black fruit. It should be planted near a window because of the lovely fragrance the flowers gives off.



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fragrans "Rubra" (*O. aurantiacus*)

Origin: Japan. Similar to *Osmanthus fragrans* in habit and foliage, but flowers in August- September and has much showier flowers, reddish-orange. Uses: as *Osmanthus fragrans*.

ilicifolius (*O. heterophyllus*)

Origin: Japan. Upright, dense habit. Leaves from oval to elliptic-elongate. The leaves on the upper branches usually have smooth edges, without thorns while those on the lower branches are toothed and thorny, leathery, glossy dark green and up to 6cm long, 3cm wide. White flowers grouped in small axillary clusters from September to the end of October. This variety is most suitable for hedging as it does not require much pruning.



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***ilicifolius* "Aureovariegatus"**

Dense, globous, evergreen shrub. Oval to elliptical leaves 6-8 cm, coriaceous with prickly edges, green with yellow margins. For borders, rock gardens, pots.

***ilicifolius* "Purpureus"
(*O. heterophyllus* "Purpureus")**

Evergreen shrub with tight, upright habit. Leaves oval to elliptical-oblong, deeply-toothed, coriaceous, 6 cm long and up to 3 cm broad. In spring, they are quite a bright reddish- purple, turning green with purple tints. Flowers and uses as *Osmanthus ilicifolius*.



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ilicifolius "Tricolor"
(*O. heterophyllus* "Goshiki")

Variety of small development and compact, almost globular habit. Evergreen leaves, leathery, finely cut and spiny 6-10cm, pinkish-orange initially, dark green with creamy- yellow spots later. Suitable for borders, rock gardens and containers.

ilicifolius "Variegatus"
**(*O. ilicifolius*
"Argenteomarginatus")**

Evergreen shrub with dwarf, dense, upright habit. Leaves, 6-8cm, from oval to elliptic, coriaceous, spiny edges, green margins speckled with cream. Use: the same as previous plant.

