

Ligustrum

Ligustrum, Liguster (*Oleaceae*)



delavayanum (L. ionandrum)

Evergreen shrub with very dense branching. Opposite leaves, ovoidal, elliptical, 1-3cm long, pointed, vivid dark green. Strongly scented white flowers in May grouped in panicles. Flowering occurs only if the plant is not pruned too close to when new growth starts. Tolerates frequent, hard pruning and for this reason is used in topiary, especially half standards with a round crown, and also balls, cones and other shapes. Some of the leaves may fall if there is hard frost but they will re-appear in spring. Grows well in all average garden soils provided they are permeable. Easy to grow in pots which are often placed in front of shops and restaurants.

japonicum (L. lucidum), Japanes Privet

Origin: Japan, Korea, China. Large shrub or small tree, evergreen with upright habit, large round crown, very dense. Leaves: very large, up to 10cm long, 6cm wide, elliptic, arcuate, leathery, glossy dark green. Small flowers, creamy-white, very fragrant and grouped in long, pyramidal, upright panicles from the end of May to August. Fruit: small, round, black and pruinose when ripe, they remain for many months on the plant. Adapts to any type of soil, tolerates saltiness, wind and pollution. Withstands drastic, repeated pruning and forms beautiful evergreen hedges. As a half standard it is a good alternative to Pinus Pinea and Quercus ilex in gardens, shady streets in towns and maritime locations.



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japonicum "Excelsum Superbum" (*L. lucidum* "Excelsum Superbum")

Origin: Japan, Korea, China. Variety of the previous plant with the same habit but smaller. The leaves are the same shape and texture but are brighter because when they appear they are green with bright pink margins. The pink margins later turn creamy-yellow until the following spring when the plant then has all three colours, the new leaves being pink and green and the old ones yellow. Flowers and fruit:

the same as *L. japonicum* but sporadic and never abundant. Growing requirements and use: the same as *L. japonicum*. Also used to create bright contrast of colours.

ovalifolium

Origin: Japan. Large, semi-evergreen shrub with upright, compact habit. Elliptic to oval leaves, 5 to 12cm long, green or glossy green, quite coriaceous. Flowers in June and July, creamy-white, fragrant, clustered in upright panicles, 10cm long. Black fruit as large as peas, slightly toxic. Grows well in poor, calcareous soil. Withstands pollution and tolerates any type of pruning. Excellent for hedges even at altitudes up to 1000 mts.



Ligustrum



ovalifolium "Aureum"
(*L. ovalifolium*
"Aureomarginatum"),
Golden Privet

Semi-evergreen, upright, dense shrub. Oval leaves, 5-12cm, bright yellow margins. Fragrant, creamy-white flowers in panicles in June if the plant is not pruned, followed by small, round, black fruit. Loves cool, fertile soil which is not too dry. Makes beautiful hedges but is also attractive planted singly or in groups to create a colour contrast.

sinense

Semi-evergreen, heavily branched shrub, with upright habit. Small, round, dark green leaves. Strongly scented white flowers in long terminal panicles, in May-June, followed by bunches of blackish-blue fruits. Survives all pruning and is good for forming low, medium or high hedges in a short time.



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texanum
(L. japonicum "Texanum")

Evergreen shrub, upright, dense and spreading habit. Oval, leathery, wavy leaves, 6-8cm long, 3-4cm wide, vivid dark green on the upper surface, pea-green on the underside. Spikes of fragrant, white flowers in June-July followed by black fruit. Hardy and vigorous, no particular requirements as regards soil providing it is not too calcareous. Tolerates maritime exposure and pollution. Makes beautiful hedges and is suitable for mixed group planting. Easily grown in pots or troughs.

texanum "Argenteum"
(L. texanum "Silver Star")

Evergreen shrub, broad and thick. Oval, coriaceous, undulate leaves, 6-8cm long, 3-4cm wide, pale green with creamy-white margins. Flowers and fruit: the same as *Ligustrum texanum*. Growing requirements and use: the same as *Ligustrum texanum*.

