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Mountain Fire Japanese Pieris

Pieris japonica 'Mountain Fire'

Height: 7 feet

Spread: 7 feet

Sunlight: ● ●

Hardiness Zone: 5

Other Names: Japanese Andromeda

Description:

A popular ornamental broadleaf evergreen shrub with delicate and showy chains of small white bell-shaped flowers and fiery red emerging foliage, extremely colorful in spring; performs best in moist, organic and acidic soils

Ornamental Features

Mountain Fire Japanese Pieris features dainty chains of white bell-shaped flowers hanging below the branches in early spring. It has attractive red evergreen foliage. The glossy narrow leaves are highly ornamental and remain red throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Mountain Fire Japanese Pieris is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This shrub will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Mountain Fire Japanese Pieris is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use



Mountain Fire Japanese Pieris in spring

Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Mountain Fire Japanese Pieris flowers

Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Moana Lane Garden Center & Corporate Office
1100 W. Moana Lane
Reno, NV 89509
(775) 825-0600
(775) 825-0602 - Corporate Office

South Virginia St. Garden Center
11301 S. Virginia Street
Reno, NV 89511
(775) 853-1319

Pyramid Way Garden Center
3397 Pyramid Way
Sparks, NV 89431
(775) 425-4300

Landscape Services & Design Center
1190 W. Moana Lane
Reno, NV 89509
(775) 825-0602 ext. 134
NV Lic. #3379A, D & CA Lic. #317448

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Planting & Growing

Mountain Fire Japanese Pieris will grow to be about 7 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 7 feet. It tends to be a little leggy, with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 40 years or more.

This shrub does best in partial shade to full shade. Keep it well away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. It requires an evenly moist well-drained soil for optimal growth, but will die in standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is very fussy about its soil conditions and must have rich, acidic soils to ensure success, and is subject to chlorosis (yellowing) of the foliage in alkaline soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in both summer and winter to conserve soil moisture and protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.



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