



Portuguese Laurel

Prunus lusitanica

An incredibly robust, compact evergreen, providing year-round interest and privacy, tolerant of wind, shade and drought.

Description

Portuguese Laurel, with its dense spreading foliage and resilient nature makes an elegant, formal hedge – ideal for more demanding situations.

Appearance

Glossy, elliptic, 8–10cm deep green leaves, borne from striking, plum-red coloured stems, provide the perfect backdrop to the vibrant green new growth in spring. These are joined in early summer by racemes to 25cm in length bearing scented, cup-shaped, creamy-white flowers. Decorative, slightly pointed red fruits follow in autumn, ripening to dark purple.

Placement

Suitable for any well-drained soil, Portuguese Laurel thrives in drier, more challenging conditions than Cherry Laurel. It performs equally well in full sun or deep shade and is ideal for exposed sites.

Uses

Highly versatile, its compact foliage makes for a highly effective privacy screen, impenetrable boundary or windbreak. Ideal for more formal planting, it responds particularly well to clipping, making it an ideal candidate for topiary.



An array of birds and other small animals adore the luscious berries that Laurel hedging plants produce.



Portuguese Laurel provided a wonderful contrast to the newly built stone coloured raised beds.

Case Study

“Elveden is a great company to work with and they offer an amazing product and service. We used their Portuguese Laurel hedging in this project which gave instant impact and screening which the client was thrilled with.”

Tristan Gladwell – Roger Gladwell Landscape Design



SOIL

Well-drained
Chalk, Clay,
Sand, Loam



SUNLIGHT

Full sun
Partial shade
Shade



GROWTH

Fast
40–60cm/yr
approximately



PRUNING

August



USES

Formal hedging
Privacy screening
Pollution barrier



SUITABILITY

Not suitable
for livestock
Deer resistant