



Mock Orange

Origin of the Name “Mock Orange”

As the “mock” in its name suggests, mock orange is not a true orange. But the citrusy smell of its blossoms is enough to invite comparison and inspire the common name. In the world of common plant names, “false” typically indicates that one plant is similar in some way to another while being, nonetheless, botanically distinct from it.

Caring for Mock Orange Shrubs

Your mock orange shrub will require consistent moisture until it's established, and though it is somewhat drought tolerant, the bush prefers to be kept in moist conditions. Mulching the area around the shrub will help the soil retain moisture and minimize watering needs. Mock oranges are not usually heavy feeders, though a water-soluble, all-purpose fertilizer may be used in early spring and mid summer as needed if you feel the plant is not growing as well as it should. Annual pruning will keep the plant looking good and help with maintaining its shape. Since the shrub blooms on the previous year's growth, pruning needs to be done soon after the blooming period in early summer. Simply prune off the growth just above the outer-facing buds on stems that have finished flowering. Overgrown shrubs can be pruned back by a third, though this may reduce flowering next season.

SHRUBS, TREES & FRUIT TREES

All “bare root” nursery stock (wrapped in cedar shavings) must be soaked for a minimum of 24 hours upon arrival.

Please “DO NOT” soak “seedling plugs” which are all-ready growing in soil, these should just be watered and transplanted directly into the garden.

Please make sure to read the plant label, it tells you how to handle it!

-Separate cedar packing material from roots and discard, it should not go into planting hole.

-Young trees need ample water to establish, generous waterings 2 times a week for the first two months, three if conditions are very dry.

-Always dig hole large enough so that roots are spread out evenly.

-Plant about 1-2 inches lower than old soil mark on tree or shrub.

-Never let exposed roots dry out in sun or wind.

-Apply light feeding of Fruit Tree and Shrub Fertilizer after initial planting, then every 2-3 weeks after that until late August.

-If you are unable to plant right away, make sure roots are soaking in water and in a cool place.

-On any grafted stock, make sure you cut off any suckers (branches from below graft) that start growing. These occur most often on Apple trees, plums and Roses.

PRUNING

Prune to get the desired shape and height or to check vigorous growth. On spring flowering shrubs, pruning should take place after flowering is completed. Non-flowering shrubs should be pruned during dormant period. On older shrubs it is advisable to cut back the older stems to ground level, while cutting the younger more vigorous stems to half their height. In the case of new shrubs, it is sometimes helpful to prune back the top third after planting, this gives the shrubs roots a better start as they have less to feed and thus can root quicker.

BREAKING DORMANCY

We store all our nursery stock in temperature controlled coolers right up until we ship. When you receive your stock it will just be starting to break dormancy. Soaking of stock is essential in getting the stock off to a good start. In some cases stock may be slow to leaf out. If this happens prune back tree or shrub by 1/3 and water heavily for 10 days. This will encourage stock to root and break dormancy.