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Orange Rocket Japanese Barberry

Berberis thunbergii 'Orange Rocket'

Height: 8 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4

Description:

A beautiful shrub for bringing color into the landscape; rich scarlet red foliage fades to a soft orange-red all season long, finally turning to brilliant crimson red in fall, also has attractive flowers and showy red fruits after the leaves fall

Ornamental Features

Orange Rocket Japanese Barberry is primarily grown for its highly ornamental fruit. The fruits are showy crimson drupes carried in abundance from early to late fall. It has attractive salmon deciduous foliage which emerges red in spring. The small oval leaves are highly ornamental and turn an outstanding ruby-red in the fall. It features tiny clusters of buttery yellow flowers hanging below the branches in mid spring.

Landscape Attributes

Orange Rocket Japanese Barberry is a dense multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a more or less rounded form. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.



Orange Rocket Japanese Barberry foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Orange Rocket Japanese Barberry
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and can be pruned at anytime. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spiny

Orange Rocket Japanese Barberry is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use

Planting & Growing

Orange Rocket Japanese Barberry will grow to be about 8 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 5 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 years.



Orange Rocket Japanese Barberry
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for xeriscaping or the moisture-conserving landscape. It is not particular as to soil type or pH, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

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