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Cherry On Top™ False Spirea

Sorbaria sorbifolia 'Bococot'



Cherry On Top False Spirea foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 5 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 2a

Other Names: Ural False Spirea, Ash Leaf Spirea

Description:

A nicely rounded shrub, presenting tropical-like, ferny foliage that emerges vivid pink to red, turns chartreuse with bronze tips, then matures to light green; showy white flowers are followed by bright red pods; an excellent low hedge or border accent

Ornamental Features

Cherry On Top False Spirea features showy plumes of white flowers rising above the foliage from early to late summer. It has attractive coppery-bronze-variegated light green foliage with hints of chartreuse which emerges coral-pink in spring. The pinnately compound leaves are highly ornamental and turn an outstanding coppery-bronze in the fall. The fruits are showy red pods carried in abundance from early fall to late winter. The smooth gray bark and dark red branches are extremely showy and add significant winter interest.



Cherry On Top False Spirea foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Cherry On Top False Spirea is a 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.

This shrub will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Suckering

Cherry On Top False Spirea is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Cherry On Top False Spirea will grow to be about 5 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.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Cherry On Top False Spirea makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.



Cherry On Top False Spirea foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder