

Callicarpa - Growing Guide

Growing Callicarpa

Beauty berry

The Callicarpa species grown in the Burncoose gardens are all deciduous shrubs notable for their cymes or panicles of tiny white, red, pink or purple flowers which appear in summer from the leaf axils. These flowers are followed by an even more spectacular display of similarly coloured violet purple or lilac purple bead like fruits and soft rose-red coloured autumn tints to their leaves. These shrubs grow to at least 5ft in height with a similar spread and, with us, *C. bodinieri* var. *giraldii* grows rather taller.

Callicarpa grow well in sun or dappled shade in a woodland context beside a path where their long lasting fruits can be admired. They make an equally good backdrop to a shrub border as well. *C. japonica* 'Leucocarpa' prefers summer heat and may get dieback after a hard winter. As such it may be a good idea to prune it back hard in its entirety to about 2ft after the fruits have disappeared.

C. bodinieri var. *giraldii* 'Profusion' is rightly the most impressive and popular of the Callicarpas. It has bronze young leaves and is the most free fruiting form with standout dense clusters of violet fruits.



C. bodinieri var. *giraldii*
'Profusion'



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'Profusion'



C. dichotoma



C. dichotoma



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C. japonica 'Leucocarpa'



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C. japonica 'Leucocarpa'



C. japonica 'Leucocarpa'



C. kwangtungensis



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C. kwangtungensis



C. mollis



C. mollis

Callicarpa root fairly easily from semi-ripe summer cuttings. The seeds can be sown in the autumn or spring in containers in the cold frame. We have seen quick and easy germination of ripe fruits.



C. cathayana

View this video on Youtube here <https://www.youtube.com/GMGuViWBA9o>

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