

Choisya - Growing Guide

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Mexican orange blossom

These popular plants originate from rocky slopes in the SW USA into Mexico. Despite their origins they have proved perfectly hardy in most UK conditions and seem to enjoy our higher rainfall levels. At Caerhays we have grown *Choisya ternata* against the castle wall in a shady damp corner facing southerly gales for over 50 years. Despite a few rigorous and successful periodic prunings it always produces two crops of fragrant white flowers in late spring and, again, in late autumn. An utterly reliable plant for brightening up a dank corner although the reference books say this is best grown in full sun!



Choisya ternata

Choisya have palmate and aromatic leathery leaves and star-shaped white flowers in cymes or corymbs. They suit the shrub border or being planted up against a wall.

Choisya ternata 'Sundance' has stunning yellow (rather than green) new growth foliage which fades to yellow-green by mid-summer. If you grow this in full sun the leaves may bleach to a slightly unsightly white. When grown in shade the foliage effect is much better and more long lasting but,

we find, you do not seem to get many flowers. *C. ternata* grows with us to around 5-6ft with a similar spread. It is a compact and dense shrub. *C. ternata* 'Sundance' is not quite as vigorous especially in full sun.



Choisya ternata
'Sundance'



Choisya ternata
'Sundance' & *Potentilla*
fruticosa 'Elizabeth'

Choisya x dewitteana 'Apple Blossom' is the first *Choisya* to have bicoloured pink and white flowers which are heavily scented. This is a compact shrub.



Choisya x dewitteana
'Apple Blossom'

'Aztec Pearl' is a dome shaped shrub which grows to 6-8ft in maturity. It has pink buds and the flowers are white with a pink tinge.



Choisya 'Aztec Pearl'



Choisya 'Aztec Pearl'



Choisya 'Aztec Pearl'



Choisya 'Goldfingers'



Choisya 'White Dazzler'



Choisya 'White Dazzler'



Choisya 'White Dazzler'



Choisya x 'Scented Gem'



Choisya x 'Scented Gem'

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