Crinodendron - Growing Guide

Growing Crinodendron

These evergreen shrubs or small trees originate from Chile. C. hookerianum is a common and much admired plant in many UK gardens. C. patagua is much more tender and difficult to grow and is therefore seen far less frequently.

C. hookerianum grows as a multi stemmed shrub or small tree of 10-15ft in height. It can grow much taller but seldom does in UK gardens. At Caerhays it is grown as a hedge or avenue in partial shade. The flower buds develop in the autumn and can readily be seen over winter. The rich crimson lantern or urn shaped fleshy flowers are grooved and toothed at the bottom. The individual red ‘lanterns’ are an inch or more long and hang down singly on a stiff stalk.
The flowers appear in April or May and may well go on into June. They are quite a spectacle. We normally have a few large branches on our Chelsea stands.

Crinodendron enjoy a cool, moist peaty soil or loam. They will grow well in full sun but are most commonly seen in partial shade. Cold winds can cause some browning or scorching of the leaves over winter so wind protection is advisable but not essential. C. hookerianum can and has withstood at least -10°C of frost with us without harm except perhaps to young plants.

C. hookerianum ‘Ada Hoffman’ has delightful pink lantern flowers but is perhaps even more temperamental to get going.
Crinodendron patagua