

Ampelopsis brevipedunculata 'Elegans' - Growing Guide

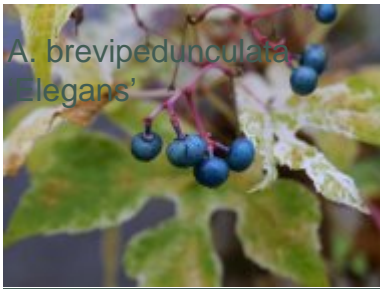
Growing Ampelopsis Brevipedunculata 'Elegans'

In former times these plants were classified as being *Vitis* vines but, more recently, they have been deemed to be a genus of their own largely because their petals are individual rather than united and because of their 'compound' leaves composed of two or more similar parts.

A. brevipedunculata 'Elegans' makes an excellent house plant (in shade) because of its green leaves mottled irregularly with white and pink. It has a further use in the garden to brighten up a shady corner but its mottled leaves shrivel in full sun and it is therefore best grown on a wall or through another perhaps evergreen plant like a camellia in full or at least partial shade. When grown as a house plant pruning of the side stems to encourage new growth will improve the plant which will also need regular feeding and potting on to encourage the spectacular new growth.

A. brevipedunculata 'Elegans' is completely hardy and has small branched cymes or clusters of insignificant small green flowers followed by startling blue fruit which are earlier pinkish or purple. The combination of coloured leaves and blue fruits is one of the best things in the climber tunnel at Burncoose in the autumn.

We also, on occasion, have *A. megalophylla* available on our website. This is a very much more vigorous deciduous climber which can quickly grow up to 30ft. Its leaves are 24in long in maturity and composed of seven to nine ovate leaflets. Again it has green flowers in late summer followed by black fruit.



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