

## Aucuba japonica - Growing Guide

### **Aucuba Japonica**

#### *Spotted laurel*

Aucubas may not be the most floriferous or 'standout' plants, but they most definitely have great use in many gardens. Firstly they will grow well in full or partial shade in dark corners. Secondly, they make a most effective and dense windbreak of 8-10ft in height. As a windbreak Aucuba will tolerate extremes of wind and salt laden gales without turning a hair. They are thus a most useful plant in keeping under-drafts out of the garden often as a low growing support to other taller growing windbreak trees such as Ilex oak or Pinus insignis. Thirdly, many of the varieties of A. japonica have spotted, speckled or variegated leaves which can and do provide an attractive backdrop to a border or a shady corner of the garden.

With the removal of Rhododendron ponticum as our principal low growing windbreak in the shelterbelts around the woodland garden here, as a result of its infection with Phytophthora ramorum a decade or more ago, Aucuba have made an ideal alternative.

Aucuba can be lightly trimmed if need be to create a more defined hedge. Doing this too frequently or too severely will reduce the amount of spring flowering. However, if your plant is elderly, the flowers are small and appear in mid spring. They appear reddish-purple and male flowers have yellow anthers in erect panicles. Female forms of Aucuba have similar flowers but go on to produce attractive crops of bright red berries in the autumn and, birds permitting, on into spring.

A. japonica 'Crotonifolia' is a female form with delightful golden yellow speckles on its green background leaves.



A. japonica 'Golden Spangles'



Aucuba japonica  
'Rozannie'



Aucuba japonica  
'Rozannie'

*Aucuba omeiensis* is a distinct erect growing species which grows here to an



*Aucuba omeiensis*



*Aucuba omeiensis*



*Aucuba omeiensis*



*A. japonica* 'Picturata'



*A. japonica* 'Picturata'



*A. japonica* 'Picturata'



*A. japonica* 'Picturata'

## **Aucuba Omeiensis - Video Tip**

View this video on Youtube here <https://www.youtube.com/qlVD68vxVEs?si=q7G-3yDdxn-tv58>

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