

Citharexylum - Growing Guide

Caring For Citharexylum Quadrangulare

This is an attractive evergreen shrub which originates from Bolivia and has been stocked by the nursery for the last few years although it is very much a rarity in UK gardens.

Despite its origins we have not found it to be tender although it needs a sheltered spot from cold winds and a warm sunny location where it forms a mounded shrub of 4-6ft in height and width with us. The stems have a purplish hue and the long lanceolate leaves have a decidedly leathery appearance. A bit like *Cleyera japonica* perhaps.

You need to look for the flowers which appear as tiny, verbena-like, drooping spikes in mid-summer. The flowers are lilac in colour and highly fragrant. It is easiest to appreciate the flowers if this plant is grown on top of a bank so that they can be viewed from below.

As with most evergreens of this sort propagation from cuttings is best undertaken in the autumn on a heated mist bench. We have not yet seen our stock plant set seed.



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