

Itea Growing Guide

Growing Itea

You cannot fail to be impressed by a plant which can produce flower tassels in high summer longer than the plant itself when grown in a pot.

Itea are a small genus of evergreen and deciduous shrubs or small trees mainly from East Asia but with one (*I. virginica*) from the USA. They have holly-like toothed leaves and all produce long catkin-like racemes of cream or greenish white flowers.

I. ilicifolia and *I. yunnanensis* are both evergreen shrubs and best grown against a warm, sunny, wall or fence. *I. virginica*, which needs more moisture, is better grown as a shrub in a border or as a freestanding specimen plant in a woodland glade with partial shade.

I. ilicifolia grows from 6-12ft tall with a similar spread and its flower tassels are 6-12in long. They appear in August but this can be variable.



Itea ilicifolia



Itea ilicifolia



Itea ilicifolia



Itea ilicifolia



Itea virginica



Itea virginica



Itea virginica



Itea virginica



Itea yunnanensis



Itea yunnanensis



Itea yunnanensis



Itea yunnanensis

Itea will root from greenwood cuttings in spring or from semi ripe new growth in summer with bottom heat. We do not find that they set seed with us.

In the appearance of its flowers this plant perhaps has similarities with *Garrya elliptica*. *Garrya* also have long flower tassels but these appear in winter rather than summer.

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