

Myrcia - Growing Guide

Growing *Myrcia Laruotteana* Var. *Paraguayensis*

This plant is from the myrtle family and, like all similar *Myrtus*, *Amomyrtus* and *Ugni*, has been subject to recent reclassification and name changes from botanical experts. *Myrcia laruotteana* var. *paraguayensis* therefore has a number of synonyms which can be confusing.

As its name implies this *Myrcia* originates from Paraguay and is an evergreen shrub growing, in Cornwall, to around 4-6ft in height. It looks much like a myrtle and has aromatic leaves, scented white flowers in summer and edible purple berries in profusion.

In Cornwall it has become a spreading shrub which thrives in dappled shade in a warm and sheltered spot alongside other myrtles. Its hardiness has perhaps not yet been fully tested in a really cold winter but it was perfectly happy through the 2018 'Beast from the East' so it is certainly not a conservatory plant, at least in milder parts of the country.

We have found this plant straightforward to propagate from its berries. Remove the pith and sow straightaway in a frost free greenhouse.



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