

Schisandra - Growing Guide

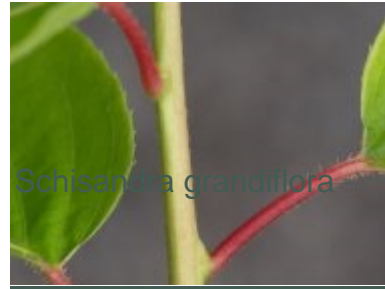
Caring For Schisandra

These are twining, woody deciduous and evergreen climbers from China. Other species come from North America. The flowers are monoecious or dioecious with male and female flowers sometimes appearing on the same plant and sometimes on different plants. The key reason for growing schisandra is that they produce spectacular and unusual cup shaped flowers singly or in clusters in short spikes from the leaf axils in late spring and early summer followed by highly coloured fruits. These plants make excellent wall or fence shrubs requiring little training to get established on wires or a trellis. They are vigorous enough to grow well up other trees or through mature shrubs in a woodland context. Totally hardy too despite the somewhat exotic nature of their flowers.

Schisandra chinensis is usually dioecious with large obovate to oval leaves 3-4in long. The flowers are fragrant and pale pink, cream or white and about $\frac{3}{4}$ in across followed, on female plants, by pendant 6in spikes of long fleshy pink or red fruit. This species can reach 20-30ft in height and flowers in late spring or early summer.



Schisandra chinensis



Schisandra rubriflora

Schisandra rubriflora



Schisandra sphenanthera

Schisandra sphenanthera