



Beautybush

(*Kolkwitzia amabilis*)

Alex X. Niemiera, Professor, School of Plant and Environmental Sciences, Virginia Tech

Summary

Foliage: Deciduous broadleaf

Height: 15 feet

Spread: 8 feet

Shape: Upright, arching

The primary and sole attractive aspect of beautybush is a stunning mass of pink, bell-shaped flowers in spring.

Plant Needs

Zone: 6 to 9

Light: Partial shade to full sun

Moisture: Moist or dry

Soil Type: Sandy, loam, or clay

pH Range: 3.5 to 7.2

Functions

Suggested uses for this plant is massing to serve as a shrub border or to use singly where a large shrub is needed.

Planting Notes

Prefers well-drained soil.

Tolerates wide range of soil pH.

Care

Easy to grow. Requires little attention if given room to develop.

Because plants often get leggy with age, prune after flowering in the spring. Remove one-third of the wood, including the oldest branches and any weak growth at ground level. One can completely rejuvenate the plant by cutting all stems to near ground level; however, this will minimize next spring's flower production.

Problems

No serious insect or disease pests.

Alternatives

Consult local sources, including historic or public gardens and arboreta, regarding cultivars and related species that grow well in your area.

Cultivars of *Kolkwitzia amabilis*:

'Pink Cloud' and 'Rosea' have large and prolific clear, pink flowers.

Comments

A tall, vigorous shrub with an arching branching habit.

Grown chiefly for its flowering effect. This shrub is in the same category as forsythia in that it looks spectacular for about two weeks in spring and then mediocre for the rest of the year.

This material was developed by Carol Ness as part of the Interactive Design and Development Project funded by the Kellogg Foundation.



Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

www.ext.vt.edu