

Botanical Name: *Myrtus communis*

Common Name: True Myrtle

MER-tus kom-MEW-nis

SHRUB



Spring



Summer



Fall



Winter

Family: Myrtaceae

Origin: Mediterranean

Climate Zone: USDA 8-10, Sunset 8-24

Mature Height: 5-6 feet

Mature Width: 4-5 feet, 15-20 feet in old age

Plant Type: Evergreen

Growth Habit: Dense rounded form

Growth Rate: Fast

Flower Color/Details: White, sweetly fragrant
flower clusters with many panicles

Flower Season: Summer

Bark: Gray-brown with age

Fruit: Blue-black berries to 1/2" in late summer/fall

Foliage: Bright green, shiny, small pointed
leaves, pleasantly aromatic when bruised

Use: Foundation, hedge or screen, formal,
Mediterranean garden, planters, containers

Floral: Use aromatic branches as greenery

Wildlife/Beneficials: Birds, bees, beneficial
insects

Deer Resistant: Yes

Fire Resistant: Yes

Medicinal Uses/Edible: Unknown

Adverse Factors: Berries may stain hardscape.
Prone to disease in poorly-drained soils

Soil: Adaptable, if well drained

Exposure: Full sun

Water Requirements: Low, drought tolerant

WUCOLS Water Needs: L L L M M M

UC Davis Arboretum All-Star: No

Description: Looks best when allowed to grow
naturally. More interesting than boxwoods.

Maintenance: Plant high in well-drained soils,
with space around the shrub for good airflow.
Do not overwater; once or twice monthly in
summer. Do not fertilize. Selective pruning the
first two years will create a pleasing shape for the
life of the shrub. When mature, prune once
annually after berries have dropped, to maintain
smaller size and symmetrical shape.



#2 Nursery Container