



Pittosporum tobira – Pittosporum tobira 'Nanum'

Pittosporum tobira is a species of flowering plant in the *Pittosporum* family known by several common names, including Australian laurel, Japanese pittosporum, mock orange and Japanese cheesewood. It is native to Japan, China, and Korea, but it is used throughout the world as an ornamental plant in landscaping and as cut foliage.

It is an evergreen shrub which can reach 10 m (33 ft) tall by 3 m (10 ft) broad, and can become treelike. It can also be trimmed into a hedge. The leaves are oval in shape with edges that curl under and measure up to 10 cm (4 in) in length. They are leathery, hairless, and darker and shinier on the upper surfaces. The inflorescence is a cluster of fragrant flowers occurring at the ends of branches. The flower has five white petals each about a centimetre long. The fruit is a hairy, woody capsule about 1 cm wide divided into three valves. Inside are black seeds in a bed of resinous pulp.

The binomial qualifier *tobira* derives from the Japanese name for the plant.

This shrub is a common, drought-tolerant and fairly hardy landscaping plant. Many cultivars have been developed, including dwarf forms and the popular 'Variegata', which has variegated leaves. It is used for hedges, living privacy screens, and indoor and outdoor planter boxes. The stems, leaves, and dried fruits are used in flower arrangements.

Common pests of this plant include various aphids, mites, and leafhoppers, the cotton cushiony scale (*Icerya purchasi*), and root-knot nematodes (*Meloidogyne* spp.).

Compact, *Pittosporum tobira* 'Nanum' or 'Nana' (Japanese Mock Orange) is a small, broadleaf evergreen shrub featuring attractive, leathery, dark-green leaves, glossy on the top and with lighter undersides. They are arranged alternately in a whorl around the stem and provide a dense foliage year-round. Clusters of delightfully fragrant, small pure white flowers appear in late spring at the branch tips. Their sweet orange scent gives rise to the common name Japanese Mock Orange. They contrast beautifully against the handsome background of dark green foliage and last for several weeks, before gradually fading to creamy-yellow.

Easy to care for and durable, this shrub is a favorite of gardeners.

- Long-lived, this pittosporum is a moderate to fast grower if provided adequate nutrients and water. Will grow up to 2 ft. tall and wide (60 cm) in an upright rounded form with its branches radiating out from around the stems.
- Thrives in full sun or part shade in average, slightly acidic, moderately fertile, medium moisture, well-drained soils. Drought tolerant once established. This plant is very adaptable and will grow in most soils except for those that are constantly wet. The Japanese pittosporum is also salt tolerant so it is a great choice for seaside plantings.

- Rarely affected by pests or disease, but watch for aphids, scale, mealybugs or leaf spot.
- Requires little maintenance. Regular trimming may be needed to maintain a compact shape, create formal hedges and topiary
- Propagate by cuttings and seeds
- Very versatile, this plant is perfect for beds and borders. Well suited to coastal gardens and small gardens. May be clipped to a low formal hedge, similarly to Boxwood. Its compact size allows container planting. Where not winter hardy, plants should be overwintered in greenhouses or sunrooms. The beautiful evergreen foliage and ability to produce scented flowers indoors make this plant a desirable greenhouse plant.
- Native to China and Japan, but used as an ornamental in mild climates throughout the world.



Pittosporum Tobira

Il *Pittosporum tobira* è una pianta da fiore della famiglia *Pittosporaceae* conosciuta con diversi nomi comuni, tra cui l'alloro australiano, pitosforo giapponese, mock orange e cheesewood giapponese.

Origine

È originaria del Giappone, della Cina e della Corea, ma è usata in tutto il mondo come pianta ornamentale nel paesaggio e come fogliame tagliato.

Descrizione

È un arbusto sempreverde che può raggiungere 10 m di altezza per 3 m di larghezza, e può diventare simile a un albero.

Può anche essere tagliato in una siepe.

Foglie

Le foglie sono di forma ovale con bordi che si arricciano sotto lungo i margini e misurano fino a 10 cm di lunghezza. Sono coriacee, glabre e più scure e lucenti sulle superfici superiori.

Fiori

L'infiorescenza è un grappolo di fiori profumati che si verificano all'estremità dei rami. Il fiore ha cinque petali bianchi ciascuno lunghi circa un centimetro.

Frutti

Il frutto è una capsula pelosa e legnosa larga circa 1 cm divisa in tre valve. Dentro ci sono semi neri in un letto di polpa resinosa.

Il qualificatore binomiale *tobira* deriva dal nome giapponese della pianta.

Questo arbusto è una pianta paesaggistica comune, resistente alla siccità e abbastanza resistente. Sono state sviluppate molte cultivar, comprese le forme nane e la popolare "Variegata", che ha foglie variegata. È utilizzato per siepi, schermi viventi per la privacy e fioriere per interni ed esterni. I gambi, le foglie e i frutti secchi sono usati nelle composizioni floreali.

La specie e la cultivar 'Variegatum' hanno entrambi ottenuto il Premio per il merito del giardino della Royal Horticultural Society .

I parassiti comuni di questa pianta includono vari afidi , acari e cicaline , la cocciniglia cotonosa (*Icerya purchasii*) e nematodi galligeni (*Meloidogyne* spp.).

Può essere attaccato dalla cocciniglia dei pitosfori