



Sarcococca ruscifolia

Sarcococca ruscifolia, commonly called fragrant sweetbox or fragrant sarcococca, is a dense, low-growing, sometimes suckering, broadleaf evergreen shrub with a compact habit that typically grows to 3-4' tall and as wide.

It features:

- (a) ovate, sharp-pointed, somewhat leathery, glossy deep green, evergreen leaves (to 2 1/2" long)
- (b) fragrant, unisexual, apetalous, creamy white flowers in tassel-like axillary racemes (females with 3 stigmas located below males with 4-6 stamens) with early spring bloom (March-April)
- (c) globular dark red berries (to 1/4" across) which ripen to black.

This small shrub is native from central to western China.

Genus name comes from the Greek words *sarkos* meaning flesh and *kokkos* meaning a berry in reference to the fleshy fruits.

Specific epithet means having leaves like the genus *Ruscus* (butcher's broom).

Culture

Winter hardy to USDA Zones 7-9 where it is best grown in acidic, organically rich, moderately fertile, moist but well-drained soils in part shade to full shade. Best in part shade. Leaves lose luster and may burn in full sun. Best with consistent moisture. Appreciates a good mulch. Propagate by division or seed. Prune in spring after flowering to maintain attractive shape. Consider locating this shrub in areas where the flower fragrance can be appreciated (e.g., near doors, sidewalks or foundations).

Garden Uses

Woodland gardens, shade gardens, foundations, informal hedge. Shady corners of the landscape.



Sarcococca

Sarcococca è un genere di 16-20 specie di piante da fiore della famiglia delle *Buxaceae*, originaria dell'Asia orientale e sud-orientale e dell'Himalaya.

Sono arbusti a crescita lenta, monoici, sempreverdi, alti 1-2 m. Le foglie hanno disposizione alternata 3-12 cm di lunghezza e 1-4 cm di larghezza.

Portano fiori profumati, spesso in inverno.

Il frutto è una drupa rossa o nera contenente 1-3 semi. Alcune specie sono coltivate come tappezzanti o a bassa copertura in aree umide e ombreggiate.

Il nome del genere *Sarcococca* deriva dal greco σάρξ (*sárx*) e κόκκος (*kókkos*) per "bacche carnose", riferito al frutto.

Nel giardino di villa Cipressi ve ne sono alcuni grossi gruppi.