Calico Kitty™ Ninebark

Physocarpus opulifolius 'Auntie B'

Height: 5 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 2b

Description:

A upright, rounded shrub with stunning foliage; copper new growth matures to deep burgundy as the seasons progress; pinkish-white flower clusters in spring; interesting peeling papery bark; extremely durable, a superb color accent

Ornamental Features

Calico Kitty Ninebark features showy clusters of white flowers with shell pink overtones at the ends of the branches from late spring to early summer, which emerge from distinctive pink flower buds. It has attractive burgundy deciduous foliage which emerges coppery-bronze in spring. The serrated lobed leaves are highly ornamental and turn an outstanding deep purple in the fall. The peeling tan bark adds an interesting dimension to the landscape.

Landscape Attributes

Calico Kitty Ninebark is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other landscape plants with finer foliage.

This shrub will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and can be pruned at anytime. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Calico Kitty Ninebark is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use



Calico Kitty Ninebark foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Calico Kitty Ninebark foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Calico Kitty Ninebark will grow to be about 5 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. It has a low canopy, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 30 years.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist locations, and should do just fine under average home landscape conditions. This plant will benefit from an application of bonemeal and/or mycorrhizal fertilizer at the time of planting. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selection of a native North American species.