Mai Tai False Spirea

Sorbaria sorbifolia 'Mai Tai'

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4a

Other Names: Ural False Spirea, Ash Leaf Spirea

Description:

A multi-stemmed, rounded shrub, presenting tropical-like foliage that emerges bright orange-red and matures to deep green; showy white plumes of flowers in early summer; makes an excellent low hedge or border accent



Mai Tai False Spirea foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Mai Tai False Spirea features airy plumes of white flowers rising above the foliage in early summer. It has attractive orange-variegated green foliage with hints of chartreuse which emerges brick red in spring. The pinnately compound leaves are highly ornamental and turn an outstanding coppery-bronze in the fall. The smooth bark and dark red branches are extremely showy and add significant winter interest.



Mai Tai False Spirea foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Mai Tai False Spirea is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a more or less rounded form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This shrub will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spreading

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Mai Tai False Spirea is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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



Mai Tai False Spirea
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Mai Tai False Spirea will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 6 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 years.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Mai Tai False Spirea makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.