Prunus lusitanica

EVERGREEN PRUNUS, PORTUGUESE LAUREL

This is a very hardy evergreen shrub or small tree. Its dense habit lends itself well to hedging and screening and as it responds well to pruning, it is even ideal as a large standard. Bark is blackish-brown and the leaves are glossy, dark green and oval in shape, with new growth being lime green in colour. Small white flower heads decorate the tree in spring followed by cherry-like fruits which are green or reddish green at first, and turn dark purple or black as they ripen in late summer or early autumn.

Prunus lusitanica can be used effectively as a layered backdrop to smaller trees and plants. Clipped, it makes a suitable hedge or screen.

Prefers a well drained, moist soil in a sunny or partly shady position but will tolerate dry periods once established. Takes well to pruning.

Foliage: Evergreen
Form: Round
Mature Size: 5 x 3m
Family: Rosaceae

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