

Sourwood - Plant



Oxydendrum arboreum,lily-of-the-valley-tree,sorrel-tree

Rating: Not Rated Yet

Price

Sales price R 123,456

Discount

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Description Sourwood (*Oxydendrum arboreum*) grows in the upland forests of the southeastern United States. Also known as sorrel-tree or lily-of-the-valley-tree, its flowers are an important source of honey in some areas but it is of little value as a timber species. Sourwood sprouts often interfere with the establishment of more desirable species in second-growth and cutover areas. This mid-summer flowering tree is an attractive ornamental.

Common name: *Oxydendrum arboreum*,lily-of-the-valley-tree,sorrel-tree

Color: red and orange

Bloom time: June to July

Height: 20.00 to 50.00 feet

Difficulty level: easy to grow

Planting & Care

Sourwood thrives in low-saline, acidic soil with a pH between 3.7 and 6.5 with consistent moisture and good drainage. Dig a hole twice as wide as the tree's root ball, ease the tree from its nursery pot, untangle its roots and center it in the hole.

Mix peat, composted pine bark or other organic material into the removed soil and begin refilling the hole, stopping halfway to water the roots and let the tree settle. After filling the hole and tamping down the soil, water the sourwood thoroughly and mulch around the root zone.

Sunlight: Full sun to part shade

Soil: well-drained soils

Water: Medium

Temperature: -29° C (-20° F) to 42° C (107° F)

Fertilizer: apply any organic fertilizer

Care:

- A sourwood faced with combined heat and drought drops its leaves.
- Prevent the problem with weekly watering during dry spells when it's actively growing.
- Deep water by letting a hose or sprinkler trickle water around the base of the tree for several hours.

- A properly watered sourwood can survive for more than 75 years
Let your sourwood establish for a year before fertilizing.
- After its leaves drop in fall, scatter a fertilizer for acid-loving plants on the soil.
- Winter rains help the roots absorb the fertilizer and feed spring growth.
- Spread the fertilizer in a circle, beginning at the outer two-thirds of the branch spread.
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- The circle should extend beyond the drip line by one-half the distance between the trunk and the ends of the branches.
- Keep the fertilizer at least 1 foot away from a young tree's trunk; expand the clear zone to 1 1/2 feet for an older sourwood.

Special Feature:

Sourwood is occasionally used as an ornamental because of its brilliant fall color and midsummer flowers. It is of little value as a timber species the wood is heavy and is used locally for handles and fuel and in mixture with other species for pulp. Sourwood is important as a source of honey in some areas and sourwood honey is marketed locally.

Use

Medicinal use:

- The sourwood, however, did have many medicinal uses among the various tribes.
- The Catawba used it as an infusion for menstrual issues and menopause.
- The Cherokee used sourwood infusions to stop diarrhea.
- They also made it into a tonic for indigestion, nervousness, asthma and spitting blood.

Culinary use:

- Juice from its blooms is used to make sourwood jelly

Ornamental use:

- Beautiful small specimen flowering tree with multi-season interest for lawns, patios, shade gardens or open woodland areas.

Note:

for medicinal use, please consult appropriate doctor / physician before use.

Reference:

<http://homeguides.sfgate.com/sourwood-tree-care-26085.html>

https://www.na.fs.fed.us/pubs/silvics_manual/volume_2/oxydendrum/arboreum.htm

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=a887>