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Aucuba japonica

JAPANESE LAUREL is an evergreen shrub. Native to eastern Asia (particularly Japan) it has tiny purplish or olive-green flowers.

It is also known as Aucuba, *Aukuba* (Swedish), *Aukuba japonská* (Czech, Slovak), *Aŭkubo Japania* (Esperanto), Dog laurel, Gold plant, Japanese aucuba, *Kiiltopensas* (Finnish), Laurel, Spotted laurel, *Tao-yeh Shan-hu* (Chinese), and Variegated laurel.

Japonica means ‘of or from Japan’.

Female Japanese laurel plants would appear to have reached Britain by the mid-to late 18th Century. But it was not until the Scottish horticulturist, Robert Fortune (1813-1880) returned home from his visit to Japan with a male plant in 1861 that any of these produced their prominent scarlet fruit.

Authorities believe the Japanese laurel reached North America in 1861.