



BERBERIS X OTTAWENSIS

Fam. Berberidaceae

DESCRIPTION

It is a vigorous shrub with purple foliage; it prefers normal soil and grows up to 150 cm tall.

LEAVES

Round or oval, dark-purple or red imparipinnate leaves that turn crimson in autumn.

FRUITS

Red berries that grow in autumn.

HABITAT

Native to Asia, it grows spontaneously in Europe, Asia, North Asia and America.

STEM

Woody, dark brown-greyish stem.

DISTRIBUTION

In Italy, it is mainly used to form hedges or welts but it can also be grown in single specimens.

INTERESTING FACTS

It is a hybrid of the Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) and the common barberry (*Berberis vulgaris*). *Berberis x ottawensis* was created in Ottawa (Canada) at the beginning of the 20th century. The small berries are edible. Their taste is sour (due to the large concentration of malic acid) and they are rich in vitamin C. They are often used for the production of liqueurs, jams, preserves and syrups and in the preparation of meat dishes, especially in the Russian and Iranian culinary traditions. The name of the genus comes from the Greek term *Berberi*(shell), due to the particular shape of the flower petals.

FLOWERS

Yellow-gold flowers appear in axillary clusters between April and June.

ROOTS

Well-developed root system, with large dark roots.

