



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

***Nandina domestica* 'Harbor Dwarf'¹**

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Introduction

'Harbor Dwarf' Nandina is a dense, compact cultivar of *Nandina domestica* (Fig. 1). It branches from the ground to form a dense mound about 18 inches in height. Dwarf Nandina has smaller leaves and more branches than the species. Small, pink or bronze, tripinnately compound, leaves emerge in spring and turn orange to red in the winter. The flowers and fruits of this cultivar are also smaller than the species and less abundant.

General Information

Scientific name: *Nandina domestica* 'Harbor Dwarf'

Pronunciation: nan-DEE-nuh doe-MESS-stick-kuh

Common name(s): 'Harbor Dwarf' Nandina

Family: *Berberidaceae*

Plant type: ground cover

USDA hardiness zones: 7 through 10 (Fig. 2)

Planting month for zone 7: year round

Planting month for zone 8: year round

Planting month for zone 9: year round

Planting month for zone 10: year round

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: container or above-ground planter; mass planting; ground cover; foundation; edging; small parking lot islands (< 100 square feet in size); medium-sized parking lot islands (100-200 square feet in size); large parking lot islands (> 200 square feet in size)

Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant

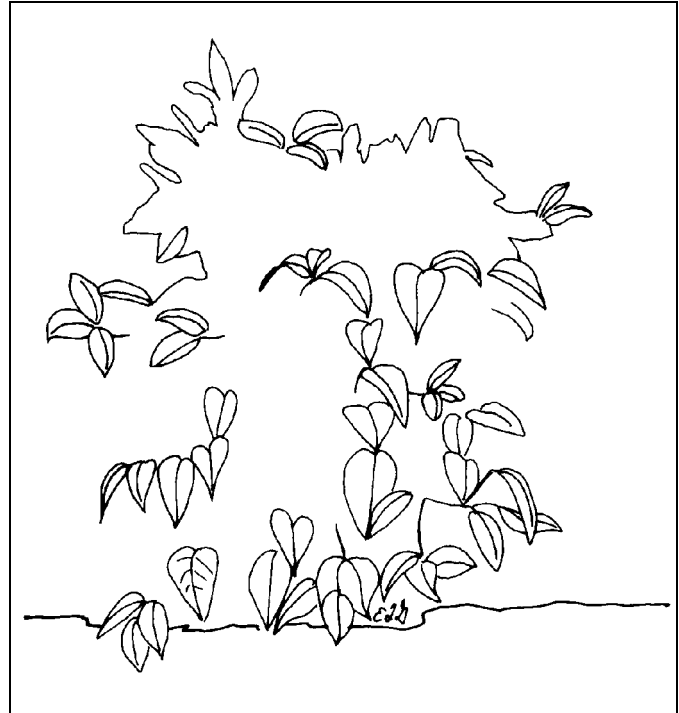


Figure 1. 'Harbor Dwarf' Nandina.

Description

Height: 2 to 3 feet

Spread: 1 to 3 feet

Plant habit: round

Plant density: dense

Growth rate: slow

Texture: fine

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Foliage

- Leaf arrangement:** alternate
- Leaf type:** odd-pinnately compound
- Leaf margin:** undulate
- Leaf shape:** lanceolate
- Leaf venation:** pinnate; reticulate
- Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen
- Leaf blade length:** 2 to 4 inches
- Leaf color:** purple or red
- Fall color:** red
- Fall characteristic:** showy

Flower

- Flower color:** white
- Flower characteristic:** spring flowering

Fruit

- Fruit shape:** round
- Fruit length:** less than .5 inch
- Fruit cover:** fleshy
- Fruit color:** red

Fruit characteristic: rarely fruits

Trunk and Branches

- Trunk/bark/branches:** typically multi-trunked or clumping stems
- Current year stem/twig color:** reddish
- Current year stem/twig thickness:** thick

Culture

- Light requirement:** plant grows in part shade/part sun
- Soil tolerances:** alkaline; clay; sand; acidic; loam
- Drought tolerance:** moderate
- Soil salt tolerances:** poor
- Plant spacing:** 18 to 24 inches

Other

Roots: not applicable

Winter interest: plant has winter interest due to unusual form, nice persistent fruits, showy winter trunk, or winter flowers

Outstanding plant: plant has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more

Invasive potential: not known to be invasive

Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests

Use and Management

Harbor Dwarf Nandina is used in the landscape as an attractive and graceful ground cover or edging. Plant on 18-to 24-inch-centers to form a thick ground cover. It is an interesting plant all year round.

Nandina domestica 'Harbor Dwarf' will grow well when given full sun or partial shade. It tolerates most well-drained soils and will endure periods of drought. The canes of this plant do not branch but there are many stems originating at ground level to thicken the plant. Harbor Dwarf Nandina is commonly propagated by semi-hardwood cuttings in the fall. The largest advances in propagation are in tissue culture to produce virus-free plants.

Other dwarf cultivars include 'Compacta' - slower growing than the species with smaller leaflets, but eventually reaches 5- to 7-feet-tall; 'Nana Purpurea' - to about 18-inches-tall with coarse foliage turning bright, glossy red in winter; 'Woods Dwarf' - same as above, 18 inches tall best for the full sun.

Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern.