



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

*Berberis x mentorensis*¹

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Introduction

A hybrid between *Berberis thunbergii* (Japanese Barberry) and *Berberis julianae* (Wintergreen Barberry) originating in Mentor, Ohio, Mentor Barberry is a naturally-rounded, semi-evergreen shrub which reaches seven feet in height and width (Fig. 1). The thorny stems and quick, dense growth make this plant ideal for barrier plantings, shrubbery borders, or foundation plantings. The small leaves will turn red to yellow-orange/red in fall, and the naturally-mounded form of Mentor Barberry is maintained without pruning. The small, yellow flowers are not quite as showy as other barberries and the dull, dark red berries are rarely formed.

General Information

Scientific name: *Berberis x mentorensis*

Pronunciation: BUR-bur-iss x men-tor-EN-sis

Common name(s): Mentor Barberry

Family: *Berberidaceae*

Plant type: shrub

USDA hardiness zones: 5 through 9A (Fig. 2)

Planting month for zone 7: year round

Planting month for zone 8: year round

Planting month for zone 9: year round

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: screen; hedge; border; mass planting; container or above-ground planter; edging; accent

Availability: grown in small quantities by a small number of nurseries

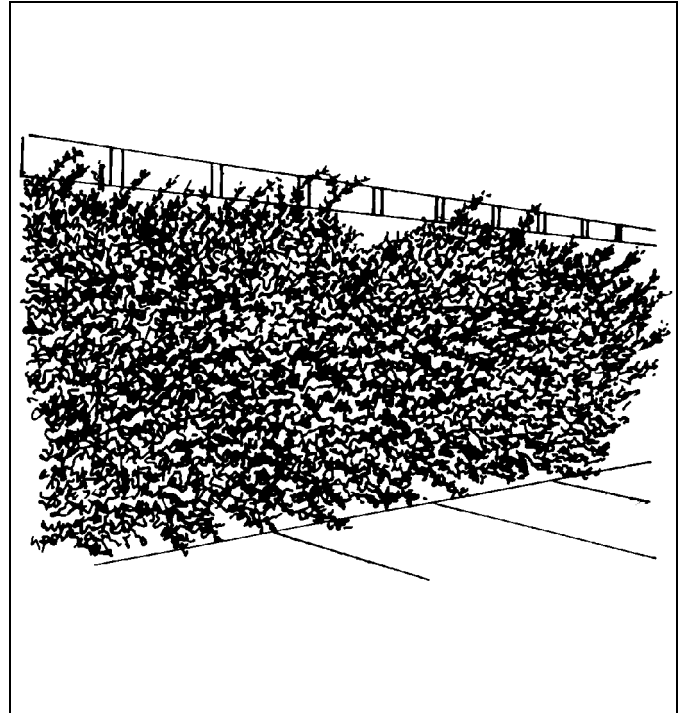


Figure 1. Mentor Barberry.

Description

Height: 3 to 6 feet

Spread: 4 to 7 feet

Plant habit: upright

Plant density: dense

Growth rate: moderate

Texture: medium

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Foliage

- Leaf arrangement:** alternate
- Leaf type:** simple
- Leaf margin:** serrate; spiny
- Leaf shape:** obovate; spatulate
- Leaf venation:** pinnate
- Leaf type and persistence:** deciduous
- Leaf blade length:** less than 2 inches
- Leaf color:** green
- Fall color:** red
- Fall characteristic:** showy

Flower

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

Fruit

- Fruit shape:** oval
- Fruit length:** less than .5 inch
- Fruit cover:** fleshy
- Fruit color:** red
- Fruit characteristic:** persists on the plant

Trunk and Branches

- Trunk/bark/branches:** not particularly showy; typically multi-trunked or clumping stems
- Current year stem/twig color:** reddish
- Current year stem/twig thickness:** thin

Culture

- Light requirement:** plant grows in part shade/part sun
- Soil tolerances:** slightly alkaline; clay; sand; acidic; loam
- Drought tolerance:** moderate
- Soil salt tolerances:** poor
- Plant spacing:** 36 to 60 inches

Other

- Roots:** usually not a problem
- Winter interest:** plant has winter interest due to unusual form, nice persistent fruits, showy winter trunk, or winter flowers
- Outstanding plant:** not particularly outstanding

Invasive potential: not known to be invasive

Pest resistance: no serious pests are normally seen on the plant

Use and Management

Growing quickly in sun or part-shade, Mentor Barberry grows best in fertile, well-drained soils and will tolerate cold (-20-degrees F.) and hot weather better than other barberries. Plants are easily transplanted.

Propagation is by cuttings which root readily.

Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern.