

Calycanthus x raulstonii 'Aphrodite'

spicebush Aphrodite



Calycanthus x raulstonii "Aphrodite" (spicebush Aphrodite) is a hybrid spicebush created from a cross between *Calycanthus chinensis* (Chinese spicebush) and *Calycanthus occidentalis* (American spicebush). This cultivar was developed in 2011 by Professor Thomas G. Ranney at North Carolina State University. *Calycanthus x raulstonii* 'Aphrodite' can eventually reach a height and width of approximately two to four metres, forming a bushy, densely branched, round to slightly upright crown.

The lush leaves of *Calycanthus x raulstonii* "Aphrodite" are glossy, oval to elliptical, green in colour and the largest in proportion to other spicebushes. In spring, they often have a bronze glow and in autumn the leaves turn an attractive golden yellow. The flowers are large, deep red (sometimes almost wine red) with broad tepals, firm in structure and reminiscent of magnolia flowers in shape. Because they are on longer stems, they are more noticeable and bloom from May to July, about two weeks later than *Calycanthus x raulstonii* "Hartlage Wine". Their scent varies from fruity to imperceptible, depending on the time of day and the age of the flower. The fruit is less conspicuous; after flowering, woody capsules with seeds develop. The bark of the shrubs is grey-brown and the twigs are green.

Calycanthus x raulstonii "Aphrodite" is ideal as a solitary shrub in gardens, as part of mixed borders or hedges in parks, or in larger planters. The combination of flower shape, foliage and fragrance gives it a somewhat tropical feel. The preferred soil type is rich, well-drained soil that is kept moist but not waterlogged. A location in full sun to partial shade is recommended; in very warm growing locations and full sun, some shade in the afternoon may give the best results.

TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: solitary shrubs | **Other types of planting:** undergrowth

USE

Location: park, central reservation, in containers, roof garden, large garden, small garden, patio, cemetery | **Pavement:** none

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: rounded | **Crown structure:** dense | **Height:** 2 - 4 m | **Width:** 2 - 4 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 5B - 9B

ASPECTS

Wind: slightly tolerant to wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, peaty, light clay, sand, loamy soil | **Nutrient level:** moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** moist, wet | **Light requirements:** sun, partial shade | **pH range:** acidic, neutral, alkaline | **Host plant/forage plant:** bees, butterflies

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: star-shaped, striking, big, spicy scented | **Flower colour:** red-violet | **Flowering period:** May - July | **Leaf colour:** buds bronze, green, underside pale green | **Leaves:** deciduous, ovate, obovate, big, polished, scented with contusion | **Autumn colour:** yellow, pale yellow, golden yellow, yellow-brown | **Fruits:** discrete, capsule | **Fruit colour:** brown, green | **Bark colour:** grey-brown | **Bark:** smooth | **Twig colour:** green | **Twigs:** bare | **Root system:** shallow,

