

## Tasmania lanceolata – Mountain Pepper

An evergreen shrub growing to 4.5m by 2.5m at a slow rate. It is in leaf all year, in flower from April to May, and the seeds ripen from September to October. The scented flowers are dioecious (individual flowers are either male or female, but only one sex is to be found on any one plant so both male and female plants must be grown if seed is required).

The plant prefers light (sandy) and medium (loamy) soils and requires well-drained soil. The plant prefers acid and neutral soils. It can grow in semi-shade (light woodland) and requires moist soil. The plant can tolerate strong winds but not maritime exposure.

### Propagation

**Seed** – best sown as soon as it is ripe in the autumn or late winter while in a good medium propagation mix in flats or a propagating tray with a depth of four inches minimum. No pretreatment of seed is required. Keep moist but not damp. Place a sheet of polythene film over the cultivating medium and maintain until germination occurs. When seedlings are large enough to handle, prick the seedlings out into individual pots and grow them on in the greenhouse for at least their first winter. Plant them out into their permanent positions in late Spring or early Summer, after the last expected frosts.

Cuttings of half-ripe wood, 10 - 15cm with a heel in July/August in a frame. Approximately 60% take.

Layering in March/April which usually takes 12 months.

Cuttings of mature wood of the current year's growth with a heel of older wood, November in a cold frame.

Requires a light lime-free soil in semi-shade. Prefers a fertile moist but well-drained soil.

A fairly hardy species, surviving cold winters in various parts of the country so long as it is in a suitable position. It tolerates temperatures down to about -15°C, but plants are liable to be damaged in cold winters.

All parts of the plant are very aromatic and pungent.

Plants in this genus are notably resistant to honey fungus.

Plants are usually dioecious though monoecious and hermaphrodite forms are known. Male and female plants must usually be grown if seed is required.



WINTER GREEN AND FRANK'S SEED

