



Cooperative Extension Service  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

## *Murraya paniculata*<sup>1</sup>

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### Introduction

Orange Jasmine makes a fine-textured, medium-sized shrub, with an upright and spreading, compact habit and dense crown of glossy green leaves. The small, orange-blossom scented, white flowers and small, red berries appear throughout much of the year. It is difficult to walk within 10 feet of this plant in flower and not notice the fragrance. The berries are attractive to birds and the flowers attractive to bees. The shrub is well-suited to shearing into a formal hedge or screen and can take on a boxwood-like effect in a formal garden. Plant three to four feet apart for a hedge. However, rapid growth rate while plants are young assures that numerous shearings will be needed throughout the growing season. Growth slows with age.

### General Information

**Scientific name:** *Murraya paniculata*

**Pronunciation:** mer-RAY-yuh pan-nick-yoo-LAY-tuh

**Common name(s):** Orange Jasmine, Chalcas

**Family:** *Rutaceae*

**Plant type:** tree

**USDA hardiness zones:** 9B through 11 (Fig. 1)

**Planting month for zone 9:** year round

**Planting month for zone 10 and 11:** year round

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Uses:** screen; border; specimen; container or above-ground planter; superior hedge; 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:** generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

### Description

**Height:** 8 to 12 feet

**Spread:** 8 to 15 feet

**Plant habit:** round

**Plant density:** symmetrical habit with a regular (or smooth) outline and individuals having more or less identical forms

**Growth rate:** slow

**Texture:** fine

### Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** alternate

**Leaf type:** odd-pinnately compound

**Leaf margin:** entire

**Leaf shape:** obovate

**Leaf venation:** pinnate

**Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen

**Leaf blade length:** less than 2 inches

**Leaf color:** green

**Fall color:** no fall color change

**Fall characteristic:** not showy

### Flower

**Flower color:** white

**Flower characteristic:** pleasant fragrance; year-round flowering

### Fruit

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Figure 1. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Fruit shape:** oval  
**Fruit length:** .5 to 1 inch  
**Fruit cover:** fleshy  
**Fruit color:** red  
**Fruit characteristic:** persists on the plant

**Trunk and Branches**

**Trunk/bark/branches:** no thorns; typically multi-trunked or clumping stems; can be trained to grow with a short, single trunk  
**Current year stem/twig color:** brown  
**Current year stem/twig thickness:** medium

**Culture**

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

**Other**

**Roots:** usually not a problem  
**Winter interest:** no special winter interest  
**Outstanding plant:** plant has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more  
**Invasive potential:** potentially invasive  
**Pest resistance:** long-term health usually not affected by pests

**Use and Management**

Orange Jasmine grows best in well-drained, nematode-free soil with moderate moisture and is well-suited for use as a tall informal screen in full sun or light shade. Orange Jasmine is also very attractive when pruned to a small, single or multi-trunked ornamental tree. The bark exfoliates nicely on the trunk and branches on older specimens. Nurseries could be encouraged to grow this plant as a small tree for planting along streets under power lines, near a patio for a small accent tree, or as a specimen anywhere in the tropical landscape.

Propagation is easily done by seeds and not so easily by softwood cuttings.

Pests include soil nematodes, scales, sooty mold, and whiteflies.

**Pests and Diseases**

No diseases are of major concern.