



Species: *Kalmia latifolia*

(kal'mi-ah lat-i-fo'lee-ah)

Mountain Laurel; Mountain-laurel Kalmia

Cultivar Information

At least 75 cultivars exist for this species. Below are a few of the more notable cultivars.

* See specific cultivar notes on next page.

Ornamental Characteristics

Size: Shrub 4 to 8 feet

Height: 7' - 15' (equal spread)

Leaves: Evergreen

Shape: dense and rounded

Ornamental Other: Intricate white to pink flowers in May/June; leaves emerge bronze turning to lustrous dark green

Environmental Characteristics

Light: Part shade, Shade

Hardy To Zone: 5a

Soil Ph: Requires acid (pH 5.0 to 7.0)

Environmental Other: Prefers winter shade; flowers best in full sun but will tolerate deep shade.

Insect Disease

relatively trouble free, but possible problems are: leaf spot, blight, flower blight, whitefly, scale, lace bug, azalea stem borer and rhododendron borer

Bare Root Transplanting

Any

Other

transplants easily as B & B or from container; foliage toxic to humans, cattle, sheep Native to Eastern US.

Cultivars for *Kalmia latifolia*

Showing **1-16** of **16** items.

Cultivar Name	Notes
f. angustata	f. angustata - naturally-occurring form; narrow foliage that is linear, like willow leaves
Apetala	'Apetala' (a.k.a. var. apetala) - produces flowers that lack most of their petal structure and consist mainly of pinkish-white extended stamens
Bay State	'Bay State' - reddish pink buds open to salmon-pink or coral-pink flowers; shiny, heavy, dark green foliage; leaf spot resistant; dense habit
Bridesmaid	'Bridesmaid' - dark pink buds open to reveal a bicolor bloom, outer edges of the flower are pink, center is light pink to white, with age, the corolla edge rolls back; dark green foliage; leaf spot resistant
Bullseye	'Bullseye' - flowers have a purple band of pigmentation inside the corolla; does not set flower buds when young; vigorous, upright growth habit; emerging foliage reddish
Carol	'Carol' - buds dark-pink outside and light pink to nearly white when open; compact, low, dense habit; shiny green foliage with wavy margins; leaf spot resistant
Carousel	'Carousel' - lowers with an intricate pattern of bright purplish-cinnamon pigmentation on the inside of the corolla with a white rim; vigorous grower; dark green, glossy, foliage; leaf spot resistant
Comet	'Comet' - flowers are white and deeply-lobed; improved form of 'Shooting Star' with better habit, foliage and cold hardiness
Elf	'Elf' - miniature or semi-dwarf; smaller leaves, slower growth and leaves closely spaced along the stem; flowers are nearly full-sized; pink in bud and nearly white when open; young plants grow vigorously and can become leggy without pruning
Freckles	'Freckles' - flowers have 10 purple-cinnamon spots on the inside of the white corolla; low, spreading habit; plant buds well when young
Heart's Desire	'Heart's Desire' - red flower buds open to reveal cinnamon-red pigmentation that nearly fills the inside of the corolla; dark green, leaf spot resistant foliage; dense, well-branched habit
Madeline	'Madeline' - semi-double blooms with multiple petals in the corolla; buds pink, white-pink when open

Cultivar Name	Notes
Minuet	'Minuet' - miniature; buds are light pink and open to display a corolla with a wide, almost cherry-red band inside; foliage is very glossy, dark green and slightly cupped
Ostbo Red	'Ostbo Red' - red-budded selection; leaves are cupped and somewhat smaller than the species; habit is fairly dense
Snowdrift	'Snowdrift' - pure white in bud and when fully open; one of the best pure white-flowering cultivars; foliage is dark green, thick and leathery
Tiddywinks	'Tiddywinks' - semi-dwarf form; excellent branching; low compact, mounded habit; buds are a strong pink and open to soft pink blooms

Photos



Kalmia latifolia - Leaves, Buds



Kalmia latifolia - Flowers



Kalmia latifolia - Flowers



Kalmia latifolia - Habit



Kalmia latifolia - Habit, Flowers



Kalmia latifolia - Bark



Kalmia latifolia - Buds



Kalmia latifolia - Fruit



Kalmia latifolia - Fruit