

## Beautybush (*Kolkwitzia amabilis*)

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### Summary:

Foliage: Deciduous broadleaf

Height: 15 feet

Spread: 8 feet

Shape: Upright, arching

The primary and sole attractive aspect of beautybush is a stunning mass of pink, bell-shaped flowers in spring.

### Plant Needs:

Zone: 6 to 9

Light: Partial shade to full sun

Moisture: Moist or dry

Soil Type: Sandy, loam, or clay

pH Range: 3.5 to 7.2

### Functions:

Suggested uses for this plant is massing to serve as a shrub border or to use singly where a large shrub is needed.

### Planting Notes:

Prefers well-drained soil.

Tolerates wide range of soil pH.

### Care:

Easy to grow. Requires little attention if given room to develop.

Because plants often get leggy with age, prune after flowering in the spring. Remove one-third of the wood, including the oldest branches and any weak growth at ground level. One can completely rejuvenate the plant by cutting all stems to near ground level; however, this will minimize next spring's flower production.

### Problems:

No serious insect or disease pests.

### Alternatives:

Consult local sources, including historic or public gardens and arboreta, regarding cultivars and related species that grow well in your area.

Cultivars of *Kolkwitzia amabilis*:

'Pink Cloud' and 'Rosea' have large and prolific clear, pink flowers.

### Comments:

A tall, vigorous shrub with an arching branching habit.

Grown chiefly for its flowering effect. This shrub is in the same category as forsythia in that it looks spectacular for about two weeks in spring and then mediocre for the rest of the year.

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