

PLANT CARE SHEET

LIGUSTRUM (PRIVET)



Placement

The privet prefers a bright position, with direct sunlight at least part of the day. While most privet species have to be kept outdoor and might only need some protection against hard frost, the Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinensis*), for example, is also sold as an indoor tree and should be placed inside the house during the winter.

Watering

On hot days the privet needs a lot of water and must be watered thoroughly as soon as the soil gets dry. In Winter water less but take care not to let the rootball dry out completely. If very calcareous water is used, the privet can show deficiency symptoms like chlorosis.

Fertilizing

During the growing season feed the tree every week with liquid fertilizer or apply a solid organic fertilizer every four weeks. Use a balanced product with sufficient phosphorous, potassium and micronutrients to promote flowers and fruit.

Pruning and wiring

The privet takes trimming and pruning very well and can also be defoliated. If you want your tree to flower, don't trim the shoots until summer. When you wire the privet, take care not to damage the soft bark of the twigs and branches. Continue reading about pruning Bonsai trees.

Repotting

Repot the privet every two or three years. It takes root-pruning quite well. The privet is not very demanding to the soil, so you can use a standard soil mix.

Propagation

The privet is easily propagated from cuttings and can also be air-layered. It is possible to grow privets from seed but those take a long time to germinate.

Pests and diseases

Aphids, scale, whiteflies and weevils can attack the privet, but can be controlled with a specific insecticide. If wilt or mildew occurs, a special fungicide is needed.

