

December Plant of the Month:
***Corylus avellana* ‘Contorta’**
Harry Lauder’s Walking Stick



Harry Lauder’s Walking Stick, *Corylus avellana* ‘Contorta,’ is an unusual deciduous shrub. It has corkscrew branches, which makes it an interesting plant in your winter landscape.

Growth Habit: Harry Lauder’s Walking Stick can grow to be 8 to 10 feet tall, with the same width. It grows relatively slow, but its corkscrew branches cause it to stand out and become a focal point in the winter landscape.

Landscape Merit and Use: This shrub’s twisted and curled branches give your winter landscape great visual interest. Along with its unique branches this shrub produces long yellow catkins that hang from the branches. They appear in the winter time and can last until mid-spring. This plant stands out great on its own or can be even be used in containers. Some of the smaller, thinner branches can be cut and used in floral arrangements.

Growing Conditions: Harry Lauder’s Walking Stick grows in full sun to part shade. This shrub does well in most soil types, and can handle drought conditions pretty well.

Care: There is not much maintenance required for this shrub. However, since it is a grafted plant some branches that do not have the corkscrew appearance might need to be pruned from the trunk of the shrub if they start sprouting below the graft union. Other than some occasional pruning, if needed, it is low maintenance and it has few pest or disease issues.