



Osmanthus delavayi



Height	1,5-3 m
Width	2-3m
Crown	round dense
Bark and branches	twigs green, bark dark grey, smooth
Leaf	evergreen, oval, 1-3 cm, leathery, flossy dark green
Flowers	white, in axillary and terminal bundles, 1-1.5 cm, April
Fruits	stone fruit, oval, blue black
Spines/thorns	None
Toxicity	usually not toxic to people, (large) pets and livestock
Soil type	loamy soil, sandy soil, peaty soil, acid soil, calcareous soil
Paving	tolerates partial paving
Winter hardiness zone	8a (-12,2 to -9,5 °C)
Wind resistance	good
Other resistances	can withstand wind
Fauna tree	can withstand wind, valuable for bees (honey plant)
Application	avenues and broad streets, tree containers, small gardens, patio gardens
Origin	U.S. National Arboretum, Washington D.C., USA, 1998

Osmanthus delavayi is a densely branched, evergreen shrub growing 1.5 to 3 m tall. The crown is slightly irregularly spherical to flattened globular. This irregularity gives the plant a somewhat cloud-like character. The young twigs are green and very short and softly hairy, the older bark is smooth and dark grey. The small leaves, which always face each other, are oval and 1-3 cm long. They are glossy dark green. The numerous small white flowers open in April. These stand in dense clusters and somewhat resemble the flowers of the Lilac (to which Osmanthus is related). The flowers have a strong and pleasant fragrance and are well-frequented by bees. Sometimes the plants flower so profusely that they are completely covered with the flowers. After flowering, small, oval blue-black drupes may form.

French missionary Jean-Marie Delavay sent seeds of Osmanthus delavayi to the famous Parisian nurseryman Maurice de Vilmorin in 1890. Only one seed germinated and the plant, named after its discoverer, was spread in Europe by grafting on Ligustrum, among others. In the early 20th century, English planthunter George Forrest sent more plants from China to Europe.