

JAPANESE ANDROMEDA
DWARF LILY OF THE VALLEY

Pieris japonica



BROADLEAF EVERGREEN SHRUB

Family:	Heath
Native to:	China, Taiwan, Japan
Hardiness Zones:	5 to 8
Bloom Time:	February and March
Height:	3 to 13 feet
Spread:	30 to 40 feet
Bloom:	White

Culture:

Originally grown in mountain thickets, it prefers rich, slightly acidic, medium moisture, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. It grows best in locations sheltered from wind with some afternoon shade.

Drooping clusters of white flowers with a mild fragrance appear in the spring. Bead-like flower buds are set in late summer for the following year and persist into winter. Evergreen leaves emerge orange-bronze, but mature to a glossy dark green. This is a different species from Lily of the Valley, a low-growing woodland plant which is a member of the Asparagus family. *Pieris japonica* is a larger shrub and a member of the Heather family.

Did You Know?

The leaves and nectar of the plant are poisonous if consumed by people or animals and will cause transient mouth burning, followed hours later by vomiting, coma, and convulsions.

The parent species is *P. japonica*, introduced in 1784 as *Andromeda japonica*. The plant was first collected and described by noted physician Carl Thunberg while working for the Dutch East India Company in Japan. In 1834 David Don, named the genus after the Pierides or nine muses of mythology.