

## *Osmanthus x fortunei* 'Variegatus': 'Variegatus' Fortunes Osmanthus<sup>1</sup>

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### Introduction

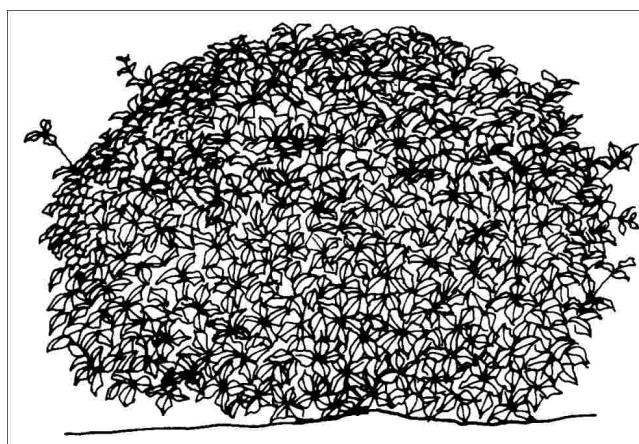
This large, vigorous, evergreen shrub or small tree grows 15 to 20 feet tall and forms a dense, round or oval silhouette. Very old specimens form a spreading vase. A hybrid of Holly Osmanthus (*Osmanthus heterophyllus*) and Fragrant Tea Olive (*Osmanthus fragrans*), Fortune's Osmanthus has the spiny, holly-like, dark green, white margined, leathery foliage of one parent plant and the extremely fragrant white flowers of the other. Frequently trimmed into a hedge or screen, Fortune's Osmanthus could be used more as a specimen or container planting, and the barbed leaves also make it suitable as a barrier planting. 'Variegatus' has a nice appearance for a variegated plant.

### General Information

**Scientific name:** *Osmanthus x fortunei*

**Pronunciation:** oz-MANTH-us x for-TOO-nee-eye

**Common name(s):** 'Variegatus' Fortunes Osmanthus



**Figure 1.** Middle-aged *Osmanthus x fortunei* 'Variegatus': 'Variegatus' Fortunes Osmanthus

**Family:** *Oleaceae*

**USDA hardiness zones:** 7A through 9B (Fig. 2)

**Origin:** not native to North America.

**Invasive potential:** has been evaluated using the IFAS Assessment of the Status of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas (Fox et al. 2005). This species is not documented in any undisturbed natural areas in Florida. Thus, it is not considered a problem species and may be used in Florida.

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**Uses:** hedge; screen; specimen; container or planter

**Leaf venation:** pinnate

**Availability:** not native to North America



Figure 2. Range

### Description

**Height:** 15 to 20 feet

**Spread:** 6 to 10 feet

**Crown uniformity:** symmetrical

**Crown shape:** oval

**Crown density:** dense

**Growth rate:** slow

**Texture:** medium

**Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen

**Leaf blade length:** 2 to 4 inches

**Leaf color:** variegated

**Fall color:** no color change

**Fall characteristic:** not showy

### Flower

**Flower color:** white/cream/gray

**Flower characteristics:** not showy

### Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** opposite/subopposite (Fig. 3)

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** spiny, serrate, pectinate

**Leaf shape:** ovate, elliptic (oval)

### Fruit

**Fruit shape:** round

**Fruit length:** less than .5 inch

**Fruit covering:** fleshy

**Fruit color:** black

**Fruit characteristics:** does not attract wildlife; not showy; fruit/leaves not a litter problem

### Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/bark/branches:** branches don't droop; not showy; typically multi-trunked; thorns

**Pruning requirement:** little required

**Breakage:** resistant

**Current year twig color:** gray

**Current year twig thickness:** thin, medium

**Wood specific gravity:** unknown

### Culture

**Light requirement:** full sun, partial sun or partial shade

**Soil tolerances:** sand; loam; clay; acidic; well-drained

**Drought tolerance:** high

**Aerosol salt tolerance:** unknown

### Other

**Roots:** not a problem

**Winter interest:** no

**Outstanding tree:** no

**Ozone sensitivity:** unknown

**Verticillium wilt susceptibility:** unknown

**Pest resistance:** resistant to pests/diseases

### Use and Management

Fortune's Osmanthus should be grown in full sun or partial shade on any well-drained soil, including clay. Drought tolerance is good with established specimens apparently doing fine without irrigation.

The cultivar 'San Jose' has cream to orange flowers.

Propagation is by cuttings.



**Figure 3.** Foliage

### Pests

Scales are one of the few problems. They can cause some defoliation if infestation is serious.

### Diseases

Mushroom root rot when grown on wet soils is a disease that may infect this tree.

### Literature Cited

Fox, A.M., D.R. Gordon, J.A. Dusky, L. Tyson, and R.K. Stocker (2005) IFAS Assessment of the Status of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas. Cited from the Internet (November 3, 2006), <http://plants.ufl.edu/assessment.html>