

Maddenia - Care Guide

Caring For Maddenia

This is a particularly rare and unusual genus of plants which are now flowering and getting established again at Caerhays. Maddenia were first introduced to the UK by Ernest Wilson in 1907 and are recorded in the garden here as late as 1966 but have subsequently died.

Maddenia are small trees closely related to prunus but have very different flowers. These are borne in short dense terminal racemes as the leaves emerge in April. The flowers do have small petals but most of the flower is actually a cluster of sepals. These emerge greenish-yellowish and become pinkish as they mature.

M. hypoleuca, which flowered at Caerhays three or four years from planting out, has cherry like leaves with, at first, an attractive bronzy tint. They are glaucous underneath. The flowers are followed by small black fruits which we are now attempting to propagate.



Maddenia hypoleuca



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Maddenia wilsonii



Maddenia wilsonii

Burncoose Nurseries: Gwennap, Redruth, Cornwall TR16 6BJ

Telephone: +44 (0) 1209 860316 Fax: +44 (0) 1209 860011 Email: info@burncoose.co.uk

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