



MALPIGHIA EMARGINATA (GLABRA) 'MARIQUITA' BARBADOS CHERRY

'Mariquita' means "Little Mary", in reference to Mary Irish, who shared this great plant with us. This evergreen is native to tropical America, ranging from South America, through Mexico, and into southernmost Texas, and is also found in the Caribbean islands. The species often exceeds 10 feet in height, but this dwarf selection tops out at 4 feet tall and wide. 'Mariquita' has small, bright green, wavy leaves, and is an ideal informal hedge-type shrub. From early summer to fall it is covered with small pink, 5-petaled flowers. Edible bright red, cherry-like fruit is produced after flowering, although it is not uncommon to have fruit and flowers on the plant simultaneously. The fruit flavor has been described as sweetly acidic with a hint of apple, and is treasured by birds and other wildlife. 'Mariquita' thrives in reflected heat and loves lots of sun. Although considered very drought tolerant, it may shed leaves in times of extreme drought. Good drainage is a must. The only problem we have observed with this plant is an occasional attack of aphids. It is evergreen to 25 ° F, and is root hardy to 20° F. USDA Zone 8

AT A GLANCE SUMMARY	
SIZE (H X W)	4 feet x 4 feet
FLOWER COLOR	Pink
FLOWER SEASON	Summer - Fall
EXPOSURE	Full sun, part shade
WATER	Low to moderate
GROWTH RATE	Moderate
HARDINESS	20° F, USDA Zone 8
PRUNING	Minimal



SHRUB

© Copyright by Mountain States Wholesale Nursery 2005
Visit our web site at www.mswn.com for more information.