

# Strawberry Tree



## *Arbutus unedo*

- **Use:** Strawberry Tree is an attractive small evergreen shade tree, with its shiny dark green color and attractive bark and multi-trunk branching habit. The flowers and fruit are also attractive highlights during the year. Once established, it is a very durable tree. The fruit drop tends to be messy near drives or walkways. It may require regularly scheduled light top-trimming (but not necessarily shearing) of vigorous top shoots to maintain its height below 25'. It is resistant to oak root fungus.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Full sun-part shade. Well drained soil is a must and red clay is not acceptable. Use slow release fertilizer two times a year. Water regularly, when top 3 in. of soil is dry.
- **Growth:** It typically grows in a multi-stemmed form, but can be trained as a single trunk tree. It matures to 10-15' tall but infrequently grows to as much as 30' tall.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 7-10; Tree
- **Foliage:** Evergreen; Glossy, leathery, obovate, dark green leaves (to 4" long) have red stems and serrate margins.
- **Flower:** Urn-shaped, aromatic, pinkish-white flowers in drooping panicles (to 2" long) bloom in October, with bloom often continuing until January. Long-stemmed, spherical, green fruits (to 1" diameter) appear in winter after the flowers, but take almost a full year to ripen. As new white flowers begin to bloom in October, the fruits from the preceding winter ripen to strawberry red, leaving the plant with the unusual situation of having both attractive flowers and ripe fruit at the same time. Although the ripe fruits (each to 3/4" in diameter) have the same color as strawberries, they unfortunately do not have the same flavor as strawberries (exceedingly bland).