

JUNE SNOW (*Serissa foetida*)

Serissa Japonica is small shrub with evergreen foliage and crosswise opposite branching. Its common name is "June Snow" because of the tiny white rose-shaped flowers that continuously appear singly or in clusters from spring until the mid winter. Grey trunk peels off in strips, is rough and turns white as the plant grows older.



Serissas grow bushy and require hard style pruning when shaping nursery plants for the first time. Fortunately they shoot easily on old wood but are likely to form root suckers as well. These can be used either to obtain new plants or to form clump styles; otherwise they must be subdued. Because of their branching pattern, styling is best continued throughout via the clip-and-grow method with occasional wiring on young branches.

Leaf reduction is not necessary because the leaves are already very small. Unfortunately they grow in the opposite position. Branches have to be pruned to obtain a bonsai with limbs in the bonsai configuration. Serissas are used mainly in informal upright styles and lend themselves for group and clump styles.

Serissa Japonica variegata has variegated ivory-green foliage but does not flower so profusely as *Serissa Japonica*. Propagation is through root suckers, soil-layering and hardwood cuttings struck in river sand.