

PLANT PROFILE



A thing of *beauty*

This well performing medium sized shrub is making a resurgence for its easy care nature and low demand for water.

Kolkwitzia amabilis commonly known as Beauty Bush is a hardy and attractive deciduous shrub growing in a vase shape to a maximum of two metres in most soil types. In spring its drooping branches are draped with masses of bell shaped soft pink flowers with a yellow throat. Its calyces and pedicels are conspicuously hairy. Originally from China, it was introduced by Ernest Wilson in 1901. These days a variety called Pink Cloud is sold. Its flowers are slightly larger and clearer in colour.

As a plant it performs well in full sun and semi shade and is not demanding of water. It is easily pruned if required but can just as easily be left to its own devices to develop into a medium sized shrub which forms a dense twiggy bush. It was planted by our grandparents in their gardens but has been used less often until recently.

A worthy and rewarding plant suitable for many sites. It should be available in most specialist nurseries, and is well worth seeking out.

