

## PIERIS 'Katsura'

Origin: Bred by Yoshimichi Hirose, a Japanese collector of variegated plants and author of several books on the subject.

Species: *Pieris japonica*

Protection Status: US Plant Patent #15,452

### Characteristics:

'**Katsura**' has bright glossy leaves with deep wine red new growth changing to green with age. In late spring, blooms cascade over green foliage, and new growth afterwards comes in glossy red again. This color progression may repeat up to three times in the season, not including good red color in the fall! Because of its numerous seasons of interest, '**Katsura**' would be attractive in a container, and excellent in an ornamental landscape to achieve mature height. Crop time to sale and/or finishing in a one-gallon container is approximately 30 months. Expert Plantsman Peter Catt describes '**Katsura**' as having deeper and richer reddish purple foliage than P. 'Mountain Fire'. Furthermore, the flower color is a pale white-lilac with a skirt of lilac quite different than P. 'Valley Valentine.'

Hardiness: USDA Zone 6

Bloom: Early spring. Rose-colored racemes.

Foliage: Glossy, narrow, elliptic red new growth color emerges continuously through the summer. Older leaves turn dark green and oblanceolate.

Habit: Broad, upright bushy.

Propagation: Softwood cuttings. *License required for propagation.*

Culture: Similar to other Pieris on the market; prefers semi-shade or sun, slightly acidic soil.

