

'Aphrodite' is a medium-sized shrub with a round crown up to about 3 m high and wide. The large, dark green leaves are always opposite each other on the green twigs. They can grow more than 15 cm long and turn golden yellow in autumn. From May, the striking, large flowers appear at the tips of young shoots and in the leaf axils of older twigs. The flowers are regular in shape and have 25 to 30 petals, the lower ones being distinctly larger than the upper ones, in the centre of the flowers. The flowers are intense purple-red, but the inner petals have cream-coloured edges. Flowers appear throughout the summer. In 1963, a previously unknown shrub was discovered in China. This plant was initially called *Sinocalycanthus chinensis*. Crosses of American *Calycanthus* with the new Chinese plants were made at the J.C. Raulston Arboretum in North Carolina, USA. These were initially described as *Sinocalycanthus ×raulstonii*. When the affinities with the American Vinegar shrub, *Calycanthus*, became clear, the name of the Chinese shrub was changed to *Calycanthus chinensis*, also changing the name of the hybrid and renaming it "just" *Calycanthus ×raulstonii*. 'Aphrodite' arose from a cross between *Calycanthus chinensis* and *C. occidentalis*. It is an easy shrub that flowers beautifully over a long period. Excellent hardiness, but because of its large leaves somewhat wind sensitive.