

February 2017

- **I have seen heavenly bamboos (*Nandina domestica*) with beautiful berries but mine have none. Also, my heavenly bamboo gets flowers but never berries. Why?**

In mid spring, nandinas bear large numbers of pink buds opening to white flowers. If the shrubs are pruned either just before, during or after flowering, there will not be fruit. Nandinas are self-fertile so they don't need another plant nearby to produce fruit. Good care is essential. They like moist, fertile soil and will fruit in sun or shade. Prune out the oldest canes completely every year or prune back oldest canes to various lengths to create a dense bushy growth.

****Some cultivars do not produce berries and other cultivars produce flowers but no fruit. Nandina berries can be poisonous to many hungry birds.**

They contain low levels of toxic hydrogen cyanide. Perhaps pruning to avoid berries is a good idea.

Now, some nandinas are being purposely bred to produce little or no fruit. Such varieties are 'Firepower', 'Gulfstream', 'Nana', 'Woods Dwarf', 'Sienna Sunrise' to mention a few.

Nandinas can also become invasive in some areas from the spread of seeds.

Sources:

homeguides.sfgate.com