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Rivers Purple Beech

Fagus sylvatica 'Riversii'

Rivers Purple Beech
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 40 feet

Spread: 30 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 5

Other Names: Common Beech, European Beech

Description:

A stunning enormous accent tree with very deep purple foliage all season long, absolutely beautiful when mature; quite particular about growing conditions, requires rich soil and significant moisture, give it lots of room to spread its branches

Ornamental Features

Rivers Purple Beech is primarily valued in the landscape for its decidedly oval form. It has attractive purple deciduous foliage. The serrated pointy leaves are highly ornamental and turn an outstanding coppery-bronze in the fall. The smooth silver bark is extremely showy and adds significant winter interest.

Landscape Attributes

Rivers Purple Beech is a dense deciduous tree with a shapely oval form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance tree, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting birds to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Rivers Purple Beech is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Shade

Planting & Growing

Rivers Purple Beech will grow to be about 40 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 30 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 3 feet from the ground, and should not be planted underneath power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live to a ripe old age of 100 years or more; think of this as a heritage tree for future generations!

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This tree should only be grown in full sunlight. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.