Roundleaf Beech

Fagus sylvatica 'Rotundifolia'

Roundleaf Beech
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 40 feet

Spread: 35 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 5a

Other Names: Common Beech, European Beech

Description:

A shapely large shade tree with shiny, rounded dark green leaves, leaves are notably different from the species, an imposing sight for larger properties; quite particular about growing conditions, requires rich soil and significant moisture

Ornamental Features

Roundleaf Beech is primarily valued in the landscape for its distinctively pyramidal habit of growth. It has dark green deciduous foliage which emerges light green in spring. The round leaves turn an outstanding harvest gold in the fall. The smooth silver bark is extremely showy and adds significant winter interest.

Landscape Attributes

Roundleaf Beech is a dense deciduous tree with a strong central leader and a distinctive and refined pyramidal form. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance tree, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Roundleaf Beech is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Shade

Planting & Growing

Roundleaf Beech will grow to be about 40 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 35 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 120 years or more; think of this as a heritage tree for future generations!

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. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.