Arborvitae, Franky Boy

Thuja orientalis 'Franky Boy'



Arborvitae, Franky Boy
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 6 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4b

Other Names: Platycladus orientalis

Description:

This exquisite variety produces threadlike branches with tiny scale like leaves that are bright yellow-green; puts on a dramatic winter show when the outer edges of the plant turn a rusty bronze color; makes a great garden accent or low hedge

Ornamental Features

Arborvitae, Franky Boy is a dwarf conifer which is primarily valued in the landscape or garden for its decidedly oval form. It has chartreuse evergreen foliage which emerges yellow in spring. The threadlike sprays of foliage turn coppery-bronze in the fall, which persists throughout the winter. The shaggy antique red bark adds an interesting dimension to the landscape.

Landscape Attributes

Arborvitae, Franky Boy is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a shapely oval form. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub. When pruning is necessary, it is recommended to only trim back the new growth of the current season, other than to remove any dieback. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Arborvitae, Franky Boy is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use



Arborvitae, Franky Boy foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Arborvitae, Franky Boy will grow to be about 6 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. It has a low canopy, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 70 years or more.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist locations, and should do just fine under average home landscape conditions. This plant should be periodically fertilized throughout the active growing season with a specially-formulated acidic fertilizer. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Special Attributes

Arborvitae don't do well if they aren't well watered regularly. Evergreens need to be watered during the winter. Our desert climate especially in late winter to early spring evergreens can suffer during next growing season. An easy way to remember check for dryness on the holidays Halloween, Thanksgiving, New Year's Day, Valentines Day & Easter.