Dawyck Purple Beech

Fagus sylvatica 'Dawyck Purple'



Dawyck Purple Beech
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 40 feet

Spread: 12 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5a

Other Names: Common Beech, European Beech

Description:

A tall, extremely columnar tree with rich purple foliage all season long, excellent for color, articulation or as a tall screen; quite particular about growing conditions, requires rich soil and significant moisture; ideal size for home landscape use

Ornamental Features

Dawyck Purple Beech is primarily valued in the landscape for its rigidly columnar form. It has attractive deep purple deciduous foliage which emerges coppery-bronze in spring. 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.



Dawyck Purple Beech foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Dawyck Purple Beech is a dense deciduous tree with a narrowly upright and columnar growth habit. 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. 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.

Dawyck Purple Beech is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Shade
- Vertical Accent

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Planting & Growing

Dawyck Purple Beech will grow to be about 40 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 12 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 5 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 does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. 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, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Clean up Rating (1-5) 1=least effort 5=most effort

Clean Up Rating (3): Flowers are insignificant. Few to some small 1/2 to 3/4 inch edible nuts are enclosed in spiny husks that birds like. Nuts are small enough to mow or can be picked up. The foliage can be blown or raked onto the lawn and mowed or bagged.