Buckthorn, Fine Line

Rhamnus frangula 'Ron Williams'

Height: 7 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 3b

Other Names: Alder Buckthorn

Description:

An attractive columnar garden shrub with finely cut foliage for an overall fine, wispy appearance, excellent for textural effect in a garden composition; very hardy, tough and adaptable



Buckthorn, Fine Line
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Buckthorn, Fine Line is primarily valued in the landscape or garden for its rigidly columnar form. It has attractive green deciduous foliage. The deeply cut ferny leaves are highly ornamental and turn yellow in fall.



Buckthorn, Fine Line foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Buckthorn, Fine Line is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a narrowly upright and columnar growth habit. It lends an extremely fine and delicate texture to the landscape composition which can make it a great accent feature on this basis alone.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, 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.

Buckthorn, Fine Line is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Buckthorn, Fine Line will grow to be about 7 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 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 40 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 highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America, and parts of it are known to be toxic to humans and animals, so care should be exercised in planting it around children and pets.

Buckthorn, Fine Line makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.

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

Clean Up Rating (1): Flowers are insignificant. Seeds are very small and a dark blue color, birds love them, clean up by blowing or raking onto the lawn and mow or bag with leaves.