



Purple Beech

Fagus sylvatica 'Purpurea'

A dense, moderate-growing, native deciduous, boasting a dramatic, low branching broad leaf, offering year-round privacy and interest.

Description

Elegant, hardy and undemanding, the Purple Beech with its majestic foliage is ideal for those seeking a formal hedge with ornamental value.

Appearance

In spring, shiny 4–9cm greenish-purple leaves emerge, wavy-edged and fringed with silky brown hairs. The leaves mature to deep purple. Tassel-like catkins and reddish brown beech nuts, housed in woody cups, follow. In autumn, foliage softens to coppery brown, remaining on the branches well into winter.

Placement

Purple Beech, excels in a moist but well-drained soil, so heavy clays or those prone to waterlogging are best avoided. Suitable for exposed sites, tolerating full sun or partial shade.

Uses

Ideal for garden and landscaping projects, its rich colour provides a contrast to other planting schemes. Clipping in late summer will aid leaf retention in winter, enhancing its value as a barrier to pollution and wind with the addition of providing a decorative privacy screen.



Beech leaves are the food choice of a number of caterpillars. Both the leaves and timber are high in potash and help to enrich the soil.



SOIL

Well-drained
Avoid heavy
or wet soils



SUNLIGHT

Full sun
Partial shade



GROWTH

Moderate
20–40cm/yr
approximately



PRUNING

Late summer



USES

Formal hedging
Privacy screening
Security barrier



SUITABILITY

Containment
of horses