Irish Yew

Taxus baccata 'Fastigiata'



Irish Yew
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 20 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 6

Other Names: Common Yew

Description:

A narrowly upright evergreen tree with almost vertical branching, deep green needles and interesting red berries; good size for home use, makes a great tall hedge or screen, takes pruning exceptionally well

Ornamental Features

Irish Yew is primarily valued in the landscape for its rigidly columnar form. It has dark green evergreen foliage which emerges light green in spring. The ferny sprays of foliage remain dark green throughout the winter. The fruits are showy red drupes displayed from early to late fall.

Landscape Attributes

Irish Yew is a dense evergreen tree with a narrowly upright and columnar growth habit. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance tree, and can be pruned at anytime. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Irish Yew is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Vertical Accent
- Hedges/Screening
- Topiary

Planting & Growing

Irish Yew will grow to be about 20 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 6 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 3 feet from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live to a ripe old age of 150 years or more; think of this as a heritage tree for future generations!

This tree does best in a location that gets morning sunlight but is shaded from the hot afternoon sun, although it will also grow in full shade. Keep it away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. 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, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. 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.