Variegated English Yew

Taxus baccata 'Variegata'



Variegated English Yew
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 19 feet

Spread: 10 feet

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Common Yew

Description:

A beautiful evergreen shrub with an upright, spreading habit of growth; yellow-gold in spring and summer, maturing to green in fall and winter; excellent form for garden use, reasonably hardy for this species

Ornamental Features

Variegated English Yew is a dwarf conifer which is primarily valued in the landscape for its ornamental upright and spreading habit of growth. It has gold evergreen foliage which emerges yellow in spring. The ferny sprays of foliage turn dark green in the fall, which persists throughout the winter. The fruits are showy red drupes displayed from early to late fall.

Landscape Attributes

Variegated English Yew is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

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

Variegated English Yew is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Variegated English Yew will grow to be about 19 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 10 feet. It tends to be a little leggy, 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 for 50 years or more.

This shrub 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.