Red Obelisk Beech

Fagus sylvatica 'Red Obelisk'

Height: 40 feet

Spread: 10 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 5

Other Names: Common Beech, European Beech

Description:

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

Ornamental Features

Red Obelisk Beech is primarily valued in the landscape for its rigidly columnar form. It has attractive burgundy deciduous foliage. 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.

Landscape Attributes

Red Obelisk Beech is a dense deciduous 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 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.

Red Obelisk Beech is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Shade
- Vertical Accent



Red Obelisk Beech
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Red Obelisk Beech foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Red Obelisk Beech will grow to be about 40 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 10 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 1 foot 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 100 years or more; think of this as a heritage tree for future generations!

This tree should only be grown in full sunlight. 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 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.