Burgundy Rubber Tree

Ficus elastica 'Burgundy'

Height: 30 feet

Spread: 30 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 10

Other Names: Rubber Plant, Rubber Fig

Description:

An ornamental accent plant producing large, oval, glossy green leaves with a burgundy tint and bright red midribs; direct sunlight produces the darkest burgundy color; grows quite large in frost free areas; a popular houseplant in colder climates

Ornamental Features

Burgundy Rubber Tree has attractive dark green foliage with pointy red spines and tinges of burgundy on a tree with a round habit of growth. The glossy oval leaves are highly ornamental and remain dark green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Burgundy Rubber Tree is a multi-stemmed evergreen tree with a more or less rounded form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance tree, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Burgundy Rubber Tree is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Shade
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



Burgundy Rubber Tree foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Burgundy Rubber Tree foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Burgundy Rubber Tree will grow to be about 30 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 30 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 2 feet from the ground, and should not be planted underneath power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 50 years or more.

This tree does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in 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. 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. It can be propagated by cuttings; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Burgundy Rubber Tree is a fine choice for the yard, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used 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.