Yellowwood

Podocarpus latifolius

Height: 40 feet

Spread: 20 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 9

Other Names: Real Yellowwood, Broad-leaved Yellowwood

Description:

A unique conifer that is upright, narrow, and slow growing; narrow green foliage is covered with a silvery-blue powder; an impressive landscape accent tree that can be maintained as an informal screen

Ornamental Features

Yellowwood has attractive bluish-green foliage with hints of silvery blue on a tree with a pyramidal habit of growth. The large narrow leaves are highly ornamental and remain bluish-green throughout the winter. The blue fruits are held in cones from early to late summer. The peeling gray bark and brown branches are extremely showy and add significant winter interest.

Landscape Attributes

Yellowwood is a dense evergreen tree with a strong central leader and a distinctive and refined pyramidal form. 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 is a good choice for attracting birds to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Yellowwood is recommended for the following landscape applications;



Yellowwood
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Yellowwood foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

- Accent
- Shade
- Vertical Accent
- Hedges/Screening
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Yellowwood will grow to be about 40 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 20 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 4 feet 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 for 50 years or more. This is a dioecious species, meaning that individual plants are either male or female. Only the females will produce fruit, and a male variety of the same species is required nearby as a pollinator.



Yellowwood flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

This tree does best in full sun to partial shade. 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. This species is not originally from North America.

Yellowwood is a fine choice for the yard, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Its large size and upright habit of growth lend it for use as a solitary accent, or in a composition surrounded by smaller plants around the base 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.