Velutina Fig

Ficus velutina

Height: 25 feet

Spread: 25 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 9

Description:

An attractive evergreen garden tree producing large, oval green leaves and greenish-yellow fruit in fall that attracts birds and wildlife; prune in late winter to maintain size and shape; perfect as a border or landscape accent



Velutina Fig foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Velutina Fig is primarily grown for its highly ornamental fruit. The fruits are showy chartreuse pomes carried in abundance from mid summer to mid fall. The fruit can be messy if allowed to drop on the lawn or walkways, and may require occasional clean-up. It has attractive forest green foliage with creamy white veins. The oval leaves are highly ornamental but do not develop any appreciable fall color.



Velutina Fig
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Velutina Fig is a multi-stemmed deciduous tree with an upright spreading habit of growth. 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 tree will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting birds and squirrels to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Velutina Fig is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Velutina Fig will grow to be about 25 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 25 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 medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 60 years or more.

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. This plant does not require much in the way of fertilizing once established. It is not particular as to soil type or pH, and is able to handle environmental salt. 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 species is 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.

Velutina Fig 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.