Golden Beech

Fagus sylvatica 'Zlatia'



Golden Beech
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 40 feet

Spread: 20 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 5

Other Names: Common Beech, European Beech

Description:

A lovely accent tree with young gold foliage maturing to a bright yellow-green during summer, gold-bronze in fall; distinctive, smooth, silver bark; requires rich soil and significant moisture, give it lots of room to grow and look its best

Ornamental Features

Golden Beech is primarily valued in the landscape for its decidedly oval form. It has attractive chartreuse deciduous foliage which emerges gold in spring. The serrated pointy leaves are highly ornamental and turn an outstanding gold in the fall. The smooth silver bark is extremely showy and adds significant winter interest.



Golden Beech foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Golden Beech is a dense deciduous tree with a shapely oval 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. 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.

Golden Beech is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Shade

Planting & Growing

Golden Beech 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 to a ripe old age of 120 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.