Wild Service Tree

Sorbus torminalis



Wild Service Tree
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 50 feet

Spread: 30 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 5

Other Names: Chequer Tree

Description:

The beauty of this uncommon tree is in its form, with its upright sweeping branches coated in deeply textured bark; mostly found now in old growth forests; berries were used prior to hops for the brewing of beer

Ornamental Features

Wild Service Tree features subtle clusters of white flowers held atop the branches in mid spring. The orange fruits are held in abundance in spectacular clusters from late summer to early fall. It has dark green deciduous foliage. The oval compound leaves turn an outstanding orange in the fall. The furrowed khaki (brownish-green) bark is extremely showy and adds significant winter interest.

Landscape Attributes

Wild Service Tree is a deciduous tree with a shapely oval form. 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. It is a good choice for attracting birds to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Disease

Wild Service Tree is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Shade

Planting & Growing

Wild Service Tree will grow to be about 50 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 30 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 medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 70 years or more.

This tree should only be grown in full sunlight. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist locations, and should do just fine under average home landscape conditions. 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. This species is not originally from North America.