

Fagus, Beech (*Fagaceae*)



sylvatica, European Beech

Origin: Central Europe, Caucasus. Majestic deciduous tree with a mighty trunk, and characteristic smooth, grey bark. Leaves up to 10cm long, elliptic with undulate margins, soft green and silky looking when they appear and then dark green until autumn when they turn yellow, reddish-brown and orange. The leaves remain attached to the branches until winter even after they have dried up and for this reason they are used a lot for hedges. The flowers, not very showy, begin to appear in spring on the adult plants (15-20 years old), and are followed by fruits which look like small nuts and are visible when the woody, prickly involucre which contains them opens. No particular requirements as regards type of soil but prefers it to be

deep, not compact, cool and fertile, even calcareous. The best results occur in areas where the summers are cool and damp and the winters cold but without frost. It is a splendid forest tree, in parks, preferably in groups. It makes a good street plant if the soil is suitable and the streets wide.

sylvatica "Aspleniifolia", Fern-leaved beech

Deciduous tree, upright when young, later the branches which are very close together spread out in the shape of a fan forming an ovoidal wide crown. Alternate leaves, deeply laciniate and pointed at the tip, 8-12cm long, 4-5cm wide, bright green, paler green on the underside. In autumn the leaves turn yellow. Growing requirements the same as *Fagus sylvatica*.





***sylvatica* "Dawyck"**
(F. s. "Fastigiata"),
Dawyck Beech

Origin: Scotland. Deciduous tree, oval-elongate habit with a straight trunk, branched from the base. Main branches are almost upright, close to the trunk. Sometimes the trunk divides just above the neck into two-three stems which grow straight upwards, very close to each other. An ideal beech for a small garden. Leaves and growing requirements the same as *Fagus sylvatica*. Very attractive planted singly in parks and gardens.

***sylvatica* "Dawyck Purple",**
Purple Dawyck Beech,
Red-leaved pyramidal Beech

Same characteristics as above, but with bright red leaves.





***sylvatica* "Pendula",
Weeping Beech**

Origin: Germany. Deciduous tree of slow growth rate, especially in youth. Upright trunk with vigorous main branches spreading out horizontally or occasionally weeping and secondary branches which are drooping and almost reach the ground. The result is an impressive, attractive tree even in winter when it is bare. Leaves, flowers, fruit and growing requirements the same as *Fagus sylvatica*. Magnificent effect when planted singly in gardens and parks.

***sylvatica* "Purple Fountain",
Purple Fountain European Beech**

Origin: Germany. Deciduous tree, weeping habit, interesting because it has a more rapid, regular growth and is less wide than the *Fagus sylvatica* "Pendula". Large, reddish-purple leaves which keep their vivid colour even in summer. Same soil as *Fagus sylvatica*. Because of its small size, it is stunning planted in gardens where the space is limited.





***sylvatica* "Riversii"
(*F. sylvatica purpurea major*)**

Origin: England. Impressive deciduous tree with straight, strong trunk. The main branches also very strong and usually ascending. They start from the base and cover the whole length of the trunk. The ends of the secondary branches droop especially in adult trees. The result is a conical-spreading outline when the tree is young, majestic and rounded when adult. The leaves are slightly larger than *Fagus sylvatica*, bright red in spring, reddish-purple in summer, green and red in autumn. Fruit is the same as *Fagus sylvatica* but tinged with reddish-brown. Same soil as *Fagus sylvatica*. Ideal to plant singly in large gardens and parks.

***sylvatica* "Tricolor"
(*F. sylvatica*
"Roseomarginata")**

Origin: France. Deciduous tree which grows slowly and unevenly in youth. Later it forms a broadly conical crown, almost always branching from the base. Leaves are purple with white marks and pink margins in spring. When seen from a distance in the spring the crown can be mistaken for a flowering peach tree. Later in the year the whole leaf becomes purple and in autumn, reddish-brown. Growing requirements the same as *Fagus sylvatica*. Because of its smaller size and slower growth rate it is suitable for medium sized gardens.

