Fagus grandifolia

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Leaf Color Green
Fall Color Copper and yellow
This plant has attractive fall colors.

Fruit Color Brown
The fruit is dry and oval.

Environment
This plant tolerates a little salt.
This plant will grow in moist soil.
Suitable soil is well-drained/loamy, sandy or clay.
The pH preference is an acidic to neutral (less than 6.8 to 7.2) soil.

Landscape Uses
- Woodland garden
- Screen
- Specimen

Attributes and Features
- Pest tolerant
- Attracts birds
- Inconspicuous blooms
- Inconspicuous fruit
- Fruit is edible by birds

Fagus grandifolia

American Beech, Carolina Beech

Fagaceae (Beech)

Nomenclature: Royal Hort. Society

Type	Tree, woody plant
Hardy range	4A to 8A
Height	50' to 75' / 15.20m to 22.80m
Spread	40' to 70' / 12.20m to 21.40m
Growth rate	Slow
Form	Oval and pyramidal
Exposure	Partial shade or partial sun to full sun
Persistence	Deciduous
Bloom Time	Spring

Native Habitat
Eastern US to the Florida panhandle and isolated portions of the northern peninsula of Florida in moist soils often with high organic matter content. Also common on alluvial bottomland soils as long as they are not flooded for very long. Survives in places with a high water table but not were it reaches the soil surface - does not tolerate prolonged flooding. Typical pH range in native sites ranges from 4.1 to 6.

Additional Notes
This plant typically grows with one trunk.
Little pruning is required.
This plant is moderately flammable.
National champion is 115 x 138 in Maryland.

Culture Notes
American Beech likes a loose, acid soil which is well-drained yet can retain enough moisture for its shallow root system. (There is a form of the plant from the northern part of it range that grows primarily on soils with a pH of 7 and above). This means that a generous layer of mulch will help the tree root system develop to its fullest. Irrigation in dry summers, even for established trees, can benefit Beech trees. The root zone should be free of soil compaction and competition from other plants, especially turfgrass. Beech uses about twice the volume of water as the more drought tolerant oaks.

Young trees collected from the woods are difficult to transplant and are best preserved where they naturally occur, or should be planted from field nursery stock in spring. Fall transplants reportedly recover poorly. Roots send up shoots forming colonies in the forest. It is not suited for dry climates. It tolerates wet soil poorly. When saving existing trees

be sure water drainage is not channeled to drain water toward the tree. Trees may reach 300 to 400 years old in the forest.

Good survival in ice storms. Trees are considered poor compartmentalizers of decay. This means decay can develop and spread quickly following mechanical injury from construction activities near the tree, vandalism, storm damage, or improper pruning cuts. Fruits attract many different birds. Shoots sprout from roots. Leaves often remain on the tree through the winter. Pollen can cause significant allergies. Leaves can be poisonous if ingested.

Wood weighs 55-65 pounds per cubic foot. Wood is considered diffuse porous meaning that there is little difference in size of pores between spring and summer wood.

Maintain adequate mulch area

Clear all turf away from beneath the branches and mulch to the drip line, especially on young trees, to reduce competition with turf and weeds. This will allow roots to become well established and keep plants healthier. Prune the tree so trunks and branches will not rub each other. Remove some secondary branches on main branches with included bark. This reduces the likelihood of the main branch splitting from the tree later when it has grown to become an important part of the landscape. Locate the tree properly, taking into account the ultimate size, since the tree looks best if it is not pruned to control size. The tree can enhance any landscape with its delightful spring flush of foliage. It can be the centerpiece of your landscape if properly located.

Pests, Diseases and Damaging Agents

Pests: Aphid, borers, caterpillars can infest the foliage. Scale can be a serious pest under some circumstances and can weaken trees making them more susceptible to *Nectria* canker.

Diseases: Usually none serious provided soil is not compacted and is well-drained. Several fungi cause leaf spots but are generally not serious to warrant chemical control. Powdery mildew causes a white coating on the leaves. Bleeding canker forms cankers from which a brownish liquid oozes. Beech bark disease occurs when the feeding site of woolly Beech scale is invaded by a fungus. Cankers infect, girdle, and occasionally kill branches. Prune out the infected branches.

Special Notes

All or parts of this plant are poisonous.
This plant has aggressive roots.