

Varied beech cultivars share great beauty in common

Purple Fountain Beech (*Fagus sylvatica* 'Purple Fountain') features pendulous branches clad in dark purple to purple-red leaves. They drape from a stout, ascending trunk that is guided by an upright leader. Branches grow in an irregular fashion, making every tree a unique living sculpture. It is much faster and upright growing than Purple Weeping Beech (*F. sylvatica* 'Purpurea Pendula'), of which it is a seedling offspring. This unique tree is an excellent choice for narrow spaces or for planting in rows or groups where a tall visual screen is desired.



Fernleaf Beech (*Fagus sylvatica* 'Asplenifolia') is highly refined in appearance, thanks to cutleaf foliage that offers a lacy, fernlike appearance. Its closely layered, arching, fanlike branch structure, also adds to its airy appearance, giving a rather delicate look to a large and stately tree. Green leaves turn to golden brown in autumn, sometimes with an orange tint.

Fastigate Beech (*Fagus sylvatica* 'Fastigata' (Dawyck)) tends to be overshadowed by its flashier, purple-

foliated counterpart, Dawyck Purple Beech, but it is among the most striking of columnar trees. Its deep green leaves and tight columnar form make it an ideal tree for landscapes where a strong vertical element is needed. It performs well on the street, where its roots reach deep into the ground in search of moisture. Like the species, it is deep-rooted and among the most "sidewalk-friendly" of urban trees.



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