

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Fagus grandifolia

American Beech



This magnificent tree, with its familiar smooth, light grey bark, is huge at maturity. Young trees grow as understory trees, often holding their leaves all winter, which fade to a lovely blonde-brown color. Wildlife relish the nuts. Beech trees must be transplanted with care, ideally as young trees balled and burlapped. They do not do well as a street tree as they are sensitive to soil compaction and salt.

Suggested companions: sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), Lady fern (*athyrium filix-femina*), blue phlox (*Phlox divaricata*), trillium (*trillium grandiflorum*)

Photo Credit: Wisconsin State Herbarium, by Kenneth J. Sytsma

Plant Type: Tree
Size: 75'-100' H
50-75' W

Water Tolerant: No

Habitat:
Forested Upland

Soil: Average Garden Soil
Rich Moist

Exposure: sun
filtered
shade

Flower Color:
Yellow
Green

Plant in: Spring

Groundcover: No

Bloom Time:
April
May

Other Attributes:
Wildlife attracting
Winter interest
Edible nut
Bird attracting