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English Yew

Taxus baccata

Height: 40 feet

Spread: 20 feet

Sunlight:   

Hardiness Zone: 6a

Other Names: Common Yew

Description:

An imposing and versatile evergreen tree, the species typically a large, pyramidal and spreading tree, features interesting red berries on female plants, takes pruning well; numerous cultivars available for every purpose imaginable

Ornamental Features

English Yew has dark green evergreen foliage which emerges light green in spring on a tree with an oval habit of growth. The ferny sprays of foliage remain dark green throughout the winter. The fruits are showy red drupes displayed from early to late fall.

Landscape Attributes

English Yew is a dense evergreen 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 can be pruned at anytime. It has no significant negative characteristics.

English Yew is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Shade
- Vertical Accent
- Hedges/Screening
- Topiary



English Yew
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Planting & Growing

English Yew will grow to be about 40 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 20 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 3 feet from the ground, and should not be planted underneath power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live to a ripe old age of 150 years or more; think of this as a heritage tree for future generations!

This tree performs well in both full sun and full shade. However, you may want to keep it away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. 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, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is not originally from North America, and parts of it are known to be toxic to humans and animals, so care should be exercised in planting it around children and pets.