



Choosing the Right Tree for the Right Place

American Beech

Latin name: <i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	Texture: Medium
Common name: American Beech	Growth rate: Slow, long-lived
Zones: 4-9	Light: Part shade to full sun
Height & Width: 50-75'h x 40-80'w	Moisture: Medium, drought sensitive
Type: Deciduous	Soil: Acid, pH 5.0-6.5*
Habit: Oval to pyramidal, upright	Origin: Native

Features: Bark is thin, smooth, silver grey and tight. People often carve hearts and names in the bark, though this is not recommended. Leaves have prominent veins and are chartreuse to medium green.

Siting: American beech requires ample above and below ground space. Place in an area with more than 200 square feet of total planting area; in a planting strip at least 7' wide; or place at least 6' from pavement or wall. Roots are shallow and should be protected from machinery and traffic. Beech groves are ideal for parks, botanical gardens, and estates.

Care: Plant so root flare is visible in loose soil high in organic matter. Deep soil, plenty of sun, and moisture during establishment are ideal. At planting, water the root ball daily with two gallons of water per inch of trunk diameter for two weeks, every other day for two months, and then weekly until established. Do not over water or saturate the soil. Apply 3" of mulch over the planted area. Do not allow mulch to touch the trunk.

Pests: Plants are relatively pest resistant if cultural preferences are met.

Contact the SC Urban and Community Forestry Council at www.scurbanforestry.org for membership and additional information.

Tree selected from the *South Carolina Urban Tree Species Guide: Choosing the Right Tree for the Right Place*.

*Soil ph is determined using a professional soil test. Contact your Clemson University County Extension service for assistance www.clemson.edu/extension/. Click on "local offices".

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Beech Grove, SC Botanical Garden