

American Beech

Fagus grandifolia

Height: 50-80' | Spread: 40-80' | Light: ☀-☾ | Moisture: moist - well-drained

American Beech is a large, spreading shade tree. The tree bears edible beechnuts, which are among the most important food source for a variety of wildlife, especially squirrels, raccoons, bears, other mammals, and game birds. They are shade tolerant and long-lived. Not suitable for small areas. The leaves turn golden bronze in fall and often remain on the tree through the winter (marcescence). Unlike most trees, beeches retain smooth bark in age. The trunks are favorites for carving to preserve initials and dates indefinitely, but please avoid this practice as it damages the tree! Beech are generally deer resistant but intolerant of wet, poorly drained soils. They can be difficult to transplant and do not always grow well in urban settings.



Photos (Clockwise from top left): T. Davis Sydnor, The Ohio State University, Bugwood.org; T. Davis Sydnor; Paul Langlois, Live Botanical Collections, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org; Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org