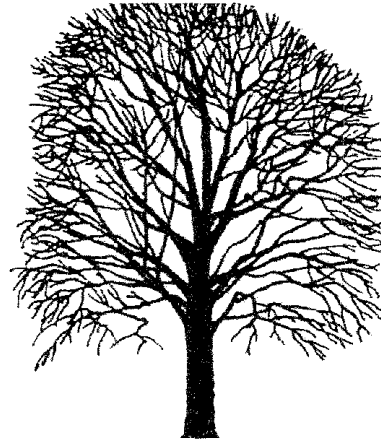
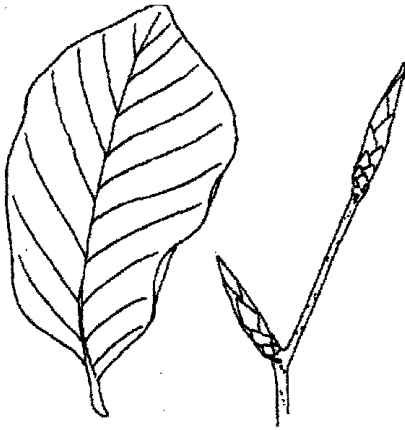


Fagus

Fagaceae

Fagus Sylvatica

European Beech



GENERAL DESCRIPTION: This beech has been extensively planted in Europe and North America for hundreds of years so that there are gigantic specimens in various parks and estates. It is characterized by bark that resembles elephant skin (easily carved) and a dense pyramidal outline early that becomes more rounded with age. The massive lower branches reach almost to the ground. The deep green leaves turn a beautiful golden brown to reddish brown in the fall. This is a very large tree and should be used in large planting areas. The so called "copper beech" is a form with coppery purple leaves.

HABIT AND SIZE: 60 to 100' high and 35-50' in diameter. A stout trunk with a densely pyramidal to rounded crown of massive spreading branches almost reaching the ground.

LANDSCAPE VALUE: A tree of imposing dignity that can dominate a landscape. Readily transplanted, excellent winter interest because of habit and bark and cultivars that will suit a variety of landscapes. Slow to moderate growth rate (9-12' per 10 yrs.).

LEAVES: Alternate, simple, 2-4" long, 1.5-3" wide, broadly elliptical or ovate acute cuneate to rounded at base. Margins undulate, entire or remotely toothed. Veins 5-9 straight parallel, surface silky and hairy when young becoming glabrous (hairless) with age except on veins. Leaf color; lustrous green above and light green below turning russet to bronze in the fall.

FLOWERS: Staminate flowers in slender stalked hanging heads, yellowish-green, subtended by deciduous scale like bracts a 5-7 lobed bell shaped calyx and 8-16 stamens. Pistillate flowers in pairs in stalked involucre (subtending bracts) in leaf axils, calyx six lobed fused to a 3 celled ovary, styles 3.

FRUIT: A brown, ovoid, sharply 3 angled nut, 1-2 in and a prickly involucre dehiscent into 4 valves.

BUD: Overlapping, slender, 0.75-1" long, sharply pointed.

DISEASES AND INSECTS: Some difficulties with bark diseases.

HARDINESS AND RANGE: Zones 4-7, but does poorly in extreme heat. Native to central and southern Europe to high altitudes. Planted in northeast and Pacific United States.

CULTIVARS: 'Asplenifolia' has dissected leaves that gives an overall fern like impression. 'Fastigiata' is upright, columnar to columnar-oval form that provides verticality in the landscape. 'Atropunicea' represents the many 'copper beech' forms in which the leaves start out coppery-purple and mature to purple-maroon. 'Pendula' is the weeping form no two of which are alike. 'Rotundifolia' has more rounded black-green leaves.