Variegated Boxwood

Buxus sempervirens 'Elegantissima'

Height: 6 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 6a

Other Names: Common Box

Description:

A stunning broadleaf evergreen with small creamy white-edged leaves, makes a spectacular color accent in the garden, takes pruning exceptionally well, give some protection from winter sun and wind

Ornamental Features

Variegated Boxwood is primarily valued in the landscape or garden for its ornamental upright and spreading habit of growth. It has attractive creamy white-variegated dark green foliage. The small round leaves are highly ornamental and remain dark green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Variegated Boxwood is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and can be pruned at anytime. It is a good choice for attracting bees to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Variegated Boxwood is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Topiary
- Container Planting

Variegated Boxwood
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Variegated Boxwood foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Planting & Growing

Variegated Boxwood will grow to be about 6 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 6 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 40 years or more.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It is not particular as to soil type, but has a definite preference for alkaline soils. 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. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Variegated Boxwood makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.