Russian Mulberry

Morus alba 'var. tatarica'



Russian Mulberry fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 30 feet

Spread: 25 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 3b

Other Names: White Mulberry

Description:

A lesser-known native North American tree which can be utilized as a shade tree or windbreak because of its durability and tolerance of dry conditions, bears abundant purple fruit that are tasty but insipid, can be somewhat messy in a lawn setting



Russian Mulberry
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Russian Mulberry has rich green deciduous foliage on a tree with a round habit of growth. The pointy leaves turn yellow in fall. The red fruits are held in clusters in mid summer. The fruit can be messy if allowed to drop on the lawn or walkways, and may require occasional clean-up.

Landscape Attributes

Russian Mulberry is a dense multi-stemmed deciduous tree with a more or less rounded form. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other landscape plants with finer foliage.

This is a high maintenance tree that will require regular care and upkeep, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting birds to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Messy

Russian Mulberry is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Shade
- Windbreaks and Shelterbelts

Planting & Growing

Russian Mulberry will grow to be about 30 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 25 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 2 feet from the ground, and should not be planted underneath power lines. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 40 years or more.

This tree performs well in both full sun and full shade. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist locations, and should do just fine under average home landscape conditions. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for xeriscaping or the moisture-conserving landscape. It is not particular as to soil type or pH, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.