Fort McNair Red Horse Chestnut

Aesculus x carnea 'Fort McNair'

Height: 40 feet

Spread: 40 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4b

Description:

A hybrid small tree with very showy panicles of pink and yellow flowers in spring; ideal for many landscape applications, makes a great accent tree for the smaller home landscape; spiny seeds may necessitate some maintenance



Fort McNair Red Horse Chestnut flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Fort McNair Red Horse Chestnut in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Fort McNair Red Horse Chestnut features bold spikes of pink flowers with yellow eyes rising above the foliage in mid spring. It has dark green deciduous foliage which emerges light green in spring. The palmate leaves turn yellow in fall. However, the fruit can be messy in the landscape and may require occasional clean-up.

Landscape Attributes

Fort McNair Red Horse Chestnut is a dense 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 tree will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Fort McNair Red Horse Chestnut is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Shade

Planting & Growing

Fort McNair Red Horse Chestnut will grow to be about 40 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 40 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 4 feet from the ground, and should not be planted underneath power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 60 years or more.

This tree 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 or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid.



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