

Fox Valley[®] River Birch[®]

Betula nigra 'Little King'

A unique dwarf selection of a popular
landscape tree.

Plant Introduction Program...
Bringing Better Plants to the Landscape



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Betula nigra 'Little King'

A unique dwarf selection of a popular landscape tree.

Botanical Name

Betula nigra 'Little King'

Family

Betulaceae

Common Name

Fox Valley® River Birch

Origin

Selected by Jim King of King Nursery, Oswego, Illinois.

Hardiness

U.S.D.A. Zone 4 (possibly better).

General Description and Habit

A deciduous, low-branched, intermediate tree with a uniform broad-pyramidal to broad-rounded habit. No catkins or seed are produced.

Size

Grows 8' to 10' in height with an equal or greater spread in 10 years.

Growth Rate

Medium when young; slowing with maturity.

Ornamental Characteristics

Foliage

Refreshing bright green, becoming medium green with an attractive sheen as the season progresses.

Fall Color

Typical of the species. Often a pale yellow-gold.

Bark

Colorful exfoliating patterns of pale salmon and cinnamon-red become evident on trunks and main branches when plants reach three to four years old.

Culture

Easily transplanted B & B or from containers. Adapts well to most soil types and growing conditions but performs best in moist, slightly acidic soils. Has proven to be heat- and drought-tolerant in field evaluations.

Pest and Disease Resistance

Excellent resistance to bronze birch borer. Periodic damage has been noted from aphids, leafminer, leaf galls, leaf spot and sooty mold, but levels have not been severe.

Landscape Value

Excellent alternative to other intermediate-sized ornamental trees in the trade. Useful as a specimen in limited space applications where the species would be unsuitable. Neat, compact habit lends itself to low-maintenance landscapes in borders and screens or as a unique hedge planting. The excellent bark characteristics may be accentuated further by removing interior branches.

Propagation

Softwood cuttings.

Chicagoland Grows® is a nonprofit corporation of the Chicago Botanic Garden, The Morton Arboretum and the Ornamental Growers Association of Northern Illinois (OGA).

The Chicagoland Grows® Plant Introduction Program is dedicated to the selection, evaluation, production and marketing of recommended and new plant cultivars. Plants selected for the program have proven to be adaptable to the Midwest and are made available to the commercial and retail landscape industry through an international network of growers and propagators.



For more information, please contact Chicagoland Grows®, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, IL 60022 (847) 835-8301.