

## Rivers Purple Beech *Fagus sylvatica* 'Riversii'

**Description:** One of the finest specimen trees. Formal and stately with densely pyramidal to oval or rounded habit, branching to the ground with slow to medium growth rate.

**Mature height:** 50' to 60' - spread 35' to 45'.

**Leaves:** The leaves are slow to emerge in the Spring changing from dark purple to bronze. 2—4" long, downy.

**Bark:** Smooth, light gray, beautiful, slightly darker than the native beech.

**Flowers:** In May with emerging leaves.

**Nuts:** Two triangular 5/8" long nuts covered with a 3/4" woody 4 lobed husk covered with bristles.

**Habitat:** Hardy zones 4 to 7. Does not do well in extreme heat. More tolerant of soils than American Beech preferring moist, well-drained acidic soil. Does best in full sun.

**Fun Facts:** The new spring leaves are the darkest purple of any form of purple European Beech. This is the most famous of all beech varieties in England, developed and introduced there by the nursery of Thomas Rivers around 1860.

