



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

*Fatshedera lizei*¹

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Introduction

Bush Ivy is a rapidly-growing, semi-climbing, evergreen shrub or vine which will reach 8 to 10 feet in height (Fig. 1). It needs some training as it grows to shape it to the desired form. The large, shiny, 3 to 5-lobed leaves are 4 to 8 inches in width and 5 to 10 inches in length, creating a striking specimen for entranceways or other prominent locations. Bush Ivy, a hybrid of *Fatsia japonica*, *Fatsia*, and *Hedera helix*, English Ivy, was discovered in France and retains the outstanding features of both parents: large, lobed leaves and a vining growth habit.

General Information

Scientific name: *Fatshedera lizei*

Pronunciation: fats-HED-dur-uh LYE-zee-eye

Common name(s): Fatshedera, Bush Ivy

Family: *Araliaceae*

Plant type: vine

USDA hardiness zones: 8 through 11 (Fig. 2)

Planting month for zone 8: year round

Planting month for zone 9: year round

Planting month for zone 10 and 11: year round

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: espalier

Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant

Description

Height: depends upon supporting structure

Spread: 8 to 12 feet

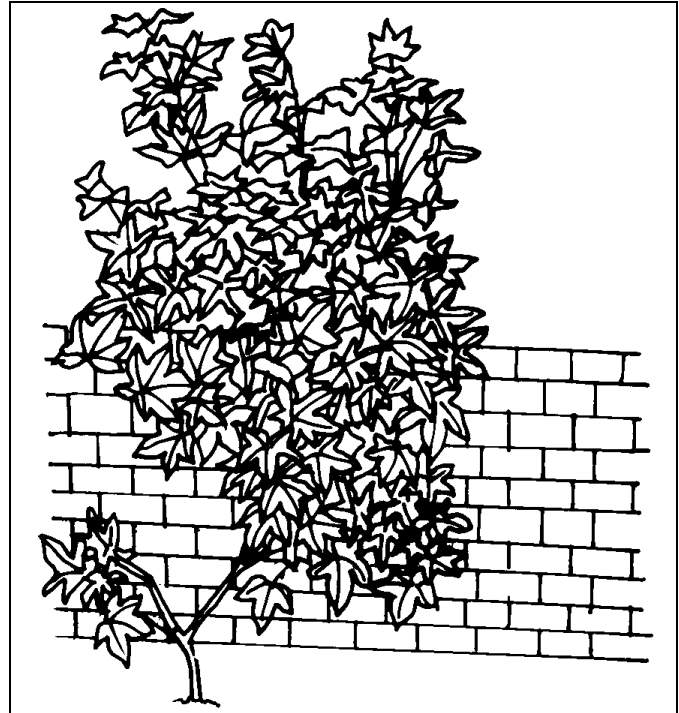


Figure 1. *Fatshedera*.

Plant habit: spreading

Plant density: moderate

Growth rate: moderate

Texture: coarse

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: alternate

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Leaf type: simple
Leaf margin: lobed
Leaf shape: star-shaped
Leaf venation: palmate
Leaf type and persistence: evergreen
Leaf blade length: 4 to 8 inches
Leaf color: green
Fall color: no fall color change
Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: white
Flower characteristic: summer flowering

Fruit

Fruit shape: unknown
Fruit length: unknown
Fruit cover: unknown
Fruit color: unknown
Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: not particularly showy; typically multi-trunked or clumping stems
Current year stem/twig color: green
Current year stem/twig thickness: very thick

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in the shade
Soil tolerances: acidic; slightly alkaline; sand; loam; clay;
Drought tolerance: moderate
Soil salt tolerances: poor
Plant spacing: 36 to 60 inches

Other

Roots: usually not a problem
Winter interest: no special winter interest
Outstanding plant: not particularly outstanding
Invasive potential: not known to be invasive
Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests

Use and Management

Often grown in containers, Bush Ivy can be successfully used as an espalier if given support. It does nicely trained on a trellis or can be tied to a post or other vertical support. Untrained plants against a wall often send shoots out away from the wall creating a weeping mess that pulls the plant away from the wall. For this reason it is not advisable to plant this if you do not plan on providing the occasional required pruning. New growth should be occasionally pinched to promote branching since stems rarely branch on their own.

Bush Ivy can be grown in full sun in cool coastal regions in the northern part of its range but should otherwise be placed in partial or deep shade and protected from hot, drying winds. It will tolerate a wide range of soils and should be regularly-watered.

The cultivar 'Variegata' has white-bordered leaves.

Propagation is by cuttings.

Aphids and scale.

Pests and Diseases

No diseases are of major concern.

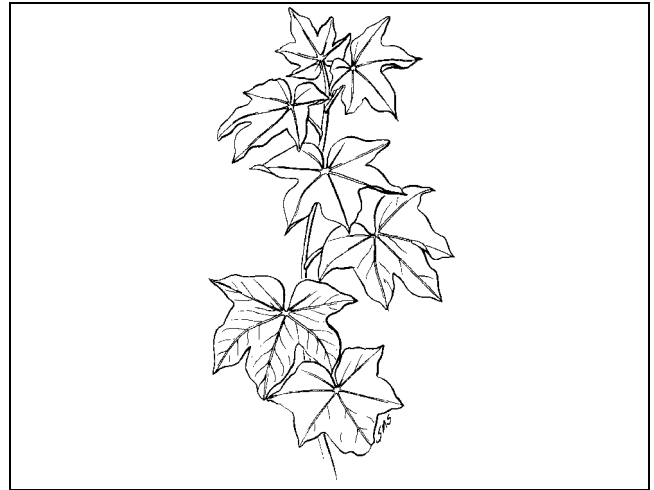


Figure 3. Foliage of Fatshedera