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RUTGERS

LANDSCAPE & NURSERY

Blue Shadow Fothergilla

Fothergilla major 'Blue Shadow'

Blue Shadow Fothergilla flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 6 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Witch Alder, Large Fothergilla

Description:

Dramatic glaucous blue leaves, like faded jeans; showy white "bottle-brush" flowers appear in spring at the ends of the bare branches, spectacular fall colors and dense, rounded habit; prefers light acidic soils; all-purpose landscape plant

Ornamental Features

Blue Shadow Fothergilla features showy spikes of fragrant white flowers rising above the foliage in mid spring before the leaves. It has powder blue deciduous foliage. The round leaves turn an outstanding scarlet in the fall.

Blue Shadow Fothergilla foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Blue Shadow Fothergilla is a dense multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a more or less rounded form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This shrub will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Suckering

Blue Shadow Fothergilla is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use

Planting & Growing

Blue Shadow Fothergilla will grow to be about 6 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 6 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 40 years or more.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It requires an evenly moist well-drained soil for optimal growth, but will die in standing water. It is not particular as to soil type, but has a definite preference for acidic soils, and is subject to chlorosis (yellowing) of the foliage in alkaline soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selection of a native North American species.