Euonymus japonicus
'Green Spire'

The U.S. National Arboretum presents Euonymus japonicus 'Green Spire', a remarkable euonymus from Japan. This columnar wonder is tough and adaptable yet appealing, with dense, upright growth and lustrous dark green leaves. 'Green Spire' is truly a wherever-green—wherever you plant it, it will be interesting, attractive, versatile, and evergreen.
**Botanical Name:** Euonymus japonicus Thunb. 'Green Spire' (NA 45034)

**Family:** Celastraceae

**Hardiness:** U.S.D.A. Zone 7

**Development:** Former U.S. National Arboretum staff, Dr. John Creech, Dr. Fred Meyer, and Sylvester March discovered this particular selection of Japanese euonymus in a garden near Araki Shrine, Dogo Island, Oki Islands, while on a plant exploration trip in Japan in 1978. Cuttings were collected and brought back to the U.S. National Arboretum, where they were propagated. In 1982, the plant was distributed as Euonymus japonicus Bekomasaki, a Japanese descriptive name of no botanical standing. In 1991, it was given the valid cultivar name 'Green Spire' and distributed again.

**Significance:** 'Green Spire' is an evergreen, multistemmed shrub with a unique and strongly fastigiate growth habit. The leaves are an extremely dark, glossy green. New growth sometimes exhibits a fasciated growth pattern, which can result in the development of multiple shoots and actually adds substance and interest to the plant.

**Description:**
- **Height and Width:** 14.5 feet tall and 6 feet wide at 21 years.
- **Habit:** Evergreen, dense, multistemmed, strongly columnar shrub.
- **Foliage:** Small, lustrous, dark green, elliptic to broadly ovate leaves.
- **Flowers:** Small, inconspicuous, axillary, greenish white. Flowers in June.
- **Fruit:** Not observed.

**Culture:** 'Green Spire' is easily transplanted and adaptable to a variety of soil types, even clay or highly acidic soils. A good plant for dry areas; withstands salt spray. Thrives in full sun to heavy shade. Withstands heavy pruning or shearing. Ornamental value rarely affected by euonymus scale except under extreme stress.

**Propagation:** Roots easily from semi-hardwood or hardwood cuttings under mist, 1000–3000 ppm IBA solution, in 4 weeks. Best rooting occurs in June, July, and August.

**Landscape Use:** Specimen, foundation plant, natural or sheared hedge or screen.

**Availability:** Readily available from wholesale and retail nurseries.

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