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.



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'Green Spire' Japanese Euonymus

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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