Millcreek Nursery Ltd.
established 1981
80 acres of trees & plants within the city limits

Fort McNair Red Horse Chestnut*

Aesculus x carnea 'Fort McNair'

Height: 35 feet

Spread: 25 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4b

Description:

A hybrid tree with very showy panicles of pink and yellow flowers in spring; makes a great accent tree for the smaller home landscape; spiny seeds may necessitate some maintenance. Not recommended unless planted in a very sheltered spot.

Ornamental Features

Fort McNair Red Horse Chestnut features bold spikes of pink flowers with yellow eyes rising above the foliage in mid spring. It has dark green deciduous foliage which emerges light green in spring. The palmate leaves turn yellow in fall. However, the fruit can be messy in the landscape and may require occasional clean-up.

Landscape Attributes

Fort McNair Red Horse Chestnut is a dense deciduous tree with a more or less rounded form. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other landscape plants with finer foliage.

This tree will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Fort McNair Red Horse Chestnut is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Shade

Fort McNair Red Horse Chestnut flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Fort McNair Red Horse Chestnut in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Fort McNair Red Horse Chestnut will grow to be about 35 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 25 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 4 feet from the ground, and should not be planted underneath power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 60 years or more.

This tree does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid.

This plant is not reliably hardy in our region, and certain restrictions may apply; contact the store for more information.

** This is a 'special order' plant - contact store for details*