

# *x Fatshedera lizei* Fatshedera, Bush Ivy<sup>1</sup>

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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. 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*, Moser's Japanese 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.

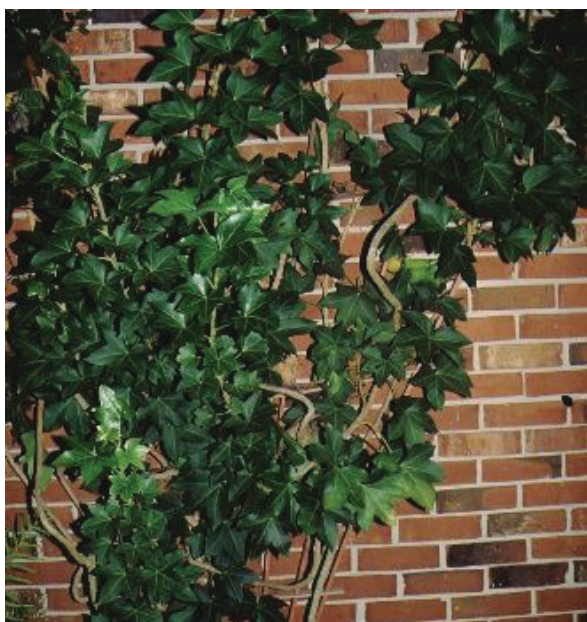


Figure 1. Full Form - *x Fatshedera lizei*: Fatshedera, bush ivy.  
Credits: Edward F. Gilman, UF/IFAS

## General Information

**Scientific name:** *x 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 (Figure 2)



Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Planting month for zone 8:** year-round

**Planting month for zone 9:** year-round

**Planting month for zone 10 and 11:** year-round

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**Origin:** not native to North America

**Invasive potential:** not known to be invasive

**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

**Plant habit:** spreading

**Plant density:** moderate

**Growth rate:** moderate

**Texture:** coarse

## Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** alternate

**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

**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.

## **Pest and Diseases**

Aphids and scale.

No diseases are of major concern.