

Acer cappadocicum subsp. *lobelii*

Caucasian Maple, Coliseum Maple, Cappadocian Maple



Acer cappadocicum subsp. *lobelii* (Caucasian Maple, Coliseum Maple, Cappadocian Maple, synonym *Acer lobelii*) is the most westerly occurring sub-species of *Acer cappadocicum*. This tree is found in Southern Italy and the Balkans, growing alongside such species as *Fagus sylvatica*, *Quercus cerris* and *Alnus cordata*. Lobel's maple was first cultivated in 1865 and described by Italian botanist Michele Tenore who named it in honour of Flemish botanist Matthias de L'Obel. The prominent columnar habit, which it develops at an early age, and the equally distinctive blue-green waxy layer on the shoots make Lobel's maple easy to distinguish from the species. As it matures the crown becomes narrowly vase-shaped (fastigiata). Naturally occurring specimens grow up to a height of twenty metres or more but in cultivation this is limited to around eighteen metres and a width of up to only three to five metres.

Acer cappadocicum subsp. *lobelii* has a glossy, dark green, 5-lobed leaf with edges displaying greater undulation than the species. In the autumn the foliage changes to golden yellow. At the end of April or in early May - coinciding with the emerging foliage - the tree bears terminal, short, yellow-green corymbs which are very important for bees and other insects. After flowering, the samaras appear with fairly flat nutlets in almost horizontal wings. The greyish-brown bark of Lobel's maple is vertically striped and peels as the tree matures. Juvenile in particular but also older branches and twigs are striped.

Lobel's maple requires a nutrient-rich, moist and not too heavy soil and consequently in paved areas needs a substrate very well suited to improving the habitat of trees. *Acer cappadocicum* subsp. *lobelii* can, therefore, be planted in paved surrounds, is very tolerant to wind and also quite drought-resistant. The columnar crown makes the tree a perfect choice for streets and avenues. But this sub-species also adds an attractive vertical accent in parks, gardens and on squares. It does not sucker on its own roots, unlike when *Acer cappadocicum* subsp. *lobelii* is grafted on *Acer cappadocicum*.

TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees

USE

Location: street, avenue, square, car park / parking lot, park, central reservation, large garden, small garden, cemetery | **Pavement:** none, open, sealed | **Planting concepts:** Eco planting, urban planting

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: columnar | **Crown structure:** semi-open | **Height:** 12 - 18 m | **Width:** 3 - 5 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 6B - 9A

ASPECTS

Wind: tolerant to wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, peaty, light clay, sand, loamy soil | **Nutrient level:** moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** moist | **Light requirements:** sun, partial shade | **pH range:** acidic, neutral | **Host plant/forage plant:** bees, butterflies, nectar value 5, pollen value 5 | **Extreme environments:** tolerant to dryness

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: corymbose, striking, standing | **Flower colour:** yellow-green | **Flowering period:** April - May | **Leaf colour:** dark green | **Leaves:** deciduous, palmate, polished, lobate | **Autumn colour:** golden yellow | **Fruits:** discrete, winged | **Fruit colour:** brown-green | **Bark colour:** grey-brown | **Bark:** slightly furrowed, striped | **Twig colour:** grey-blue | **Twigs:** bare, striped | **Root system:** shallow, on own root

