

Acer davidii
Père David's maple



The native range of *Acer davidii* (Père David's maple) is Central and Western China where it can normally be found growing as a multi-stem tree in the shrub layer of the forest, up to a height of around fifteen metres. In cultivation, Père David's maple forms an oval, semi-open and vase-shaped crown eight to ten metres tall and between seven and nine metres wide. *Acer davidii* was discovered in 1885 by French missionary, botanist and catholic priest Armand David.

In May, Père David's maple has showy blooms of pendulous, pale yellow racemes which are particularly loved by bees. Male and female flowers are found on the same plant. After flowering, green winged seeds appear on the tree which later change to red-brown. The budding leaf which has a hairy underside is red and changes to dark green with a glabrous underside in the summer and in the autumn - depending on location - *Acer davidii* delights with lovely yellow, orange to red autumn foliage. In its juvenile state, the oval leaf is lobed but this characteristic disappears as the tree matures. Young stems and branches have a red bark which later changes to green, and the young twigs are tinged dark red to violet. Père David's maple is known for its vertically striped, grey and white bark.

Acer davidii makes an ideal park and garden tree. The characteristic species can be used in a bright location as a solitary specimen or in groups provided the stems of the tree are given a degree of shade. This is because it does not tolerate full sun on its trunk. Plant *Acer davidii* on moist but well-drained soil that is rich in nutrients for the best growth and blossom. Ideally, the soil should be slightly acid although the tree also thrives on alkaline soils. Père David's maple is sensitive to dry and warm micro-climates and will suffer when crowded out by grass and weeds at its roots. An application of mulch is, therefore, recommended.

TYPES OF PLANTING
Tree types: standard trees, multi-stemmed trees, characteristic trees, solitary shrubs | **Topiary on stem**: multi-stem umbrella

USE
Location: park, central reservation, large garden, small garden, cemetery | **Pavement**: none | **Planting concepts**: shade-tolerant

CHARACTERISTICS
Crown shape: narrow oval | **Crown structure**: semi-open | **Height**: 8 - 10 m | **Width**: 7 - 9 m | **Winter hardiness zone**: 6A - 9B

ASPECTS
Wind: tolerant to wind | **Soil**: loess, sabulous clay, peaty, heavy clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil, all soils | **Nutrient level**: moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level**: moist | **Light requirements**: partial shade, shade | **pH range**: acidic, neutral | **Host plant/forage plant**: bees

PLANTKENMERKEN
Flowers: corymbose, striking, pendulous | **Flower colour**: pale yellow | **Flowering period**: May - May | **Leaf colour**: buds red, dark green | **Leaves**: deciduous, ovoid, underside hairy | **Autumn colour**: yellow, orange, red | **Fruits**: discrete, winged | **Fruit colour**: red, green | **Bark colour**: white, green | **Bark**: slightly furrowed, striped | **Twig colour**: red, green | **Twigs**: striped | **Root system**: compact, highly branched

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