

Acer davidii 'George Forrest'

George Forrest Père David's maple



Acer davidii 'George Forrest' (George Forrest Père David's Maple) was described in 1959 by botanist James Keenan from the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh, Scotland. Here, the tree grew from seeds collected by botanist George Forrest in around 1920, during his expedition in Yunnan. Cultivar 'George Forrest' differs from the main species on account of the far more open crown, bigger leaf, more pendulous shoots and larger internodes, to around ten centimetres in size. *Acer davidii* 'George Forrest' has a naturally multi-stem growth habit up to a height of between eight and ten metres, seven to nine metres wide.

At the end of April or in early May *Acer davidii* 'George Forrest' displays striking yellow blooms in pendulous racemes. Male and female specimens are found on the same plant. After flowering the tree bears green, winged seeds which later turn red-brown. In its juvenile state, the oval, large leaves are lobed but this disappears as the tree matures. In spring the budding leaf is red with a red-brown hairy underside which changes to dark green with a glabrous underside in the summer and in the autumn - depending on location - the foliage displays lovely yellow, orange and red tints. Compared with the species, the stems of the cultivar remain dark red for longer before they finally change to green. The young shoots of *Acer davidii* 'George Forrest' are distinctly dark violet red and the tree is known for its chalky white, vertical stripes on stems and branches.

It makes a perfect addition to gardens and park-like surroundings as a multi-stem tree. This selection likes to grow in a site with sufficient shade for the stems, on moist but well-drained slightly acid soil although will also thrive on alkaline soils. *Acer davidii* 'George Forrest' is sensitive to dry and warm micro-climates as well as competition from weeds and grass at its roots. An application of mulch is, therefore, recommended.

SEASONAL COLOURS



TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, multi-stemmed trees

USE

Location: park, central reservation, large garden, small garden, cemetery | **Pavement:** none

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: vase-shaped | **Crown structure:** 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

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: raceme, striking | **Flower colour:** yellow | **Flowering period:** April - May | **Leaf colour:** buds violet, green | **Leaves:** deciduous, cordate, big, polished | **Autumn colour:** yellow, orange, red | **Fruits:** striking, winged | **Fruit colour:** pink | **Bark colour:** green, pale grey | **Bark:** striped | **Twig colour:** violet | **Twigs:** striped, pendulous | **Root system:** compact, highly branched