

Acer pseudoplatanus
Sycamore, Sycamore maple, Great maple



Acer pseudoplatanus is native to Central and Southern Europe and extends eastward to the Caucasus, where it commonly grows together with *Ulmus glabra*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, and *Tilia cordata*. The tree has also become naturalized in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Denmark. It is a large, strongly growing species that can reach a height of approximately twenty five to thirty meters and a width of twenty to twenty five meters. The crown is ovate to rounded and densely branched, providing deep shade.

The leaves of the sycamore maple emerge from green buds. They are palmately lobed with five blunt lobes. The upper surface is green, while the underside is gray and hairy. In autumn, the foliage turns a golden yellow color. Unlike *Acer platanoides*, no milky sap is present in the leaf stalks. In April, *Acer pseudoplatanus* flowers at the same time as leaf emergence, producing pendulous yellow green flower clusters that attract many bees. After flowering, paired winged fruits develop, known as samaras, with the wings set at a sharp to right angle. On young trees, the bark is gray brown and smooth, later cracking into loose, decorative flakes as the tree ages.

Acer pseudoplatanus is very suitable for parks, avenue plantings, landscape gardens, and woodland edges. It tolerates sea winds, air pollution, moderate drought, and shade, making it an excellent choice for challenging growing conditions. The tree has minimal soil requirements but performs best on fertile, moist soils. A planting position in full sun to partial shade is ideal. Although the species is considered mildly invasive in some regions, it remains a robust and valuable tree with high ecological importance.

TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, multi-stemmed trees, trees for climbing, shade trees, woodland planting stock

USE

Location: avenue, park, central reservation, roof garden, large garden, cemetery, traffic areas, industrial zones, countryside, ecological zone, windbreak, coastal area | **Pavement**: none, open | **Planting concepts**: Eco planting, Landscape planting, urban planting

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: wide egg-shaped | **Crown structure**: semi-open | **Height**: 25 - 30 m | **Width**: 20 - 25 m | **Winter hardiness zone**: 4A - 8B

ASPECTS

Wind: tolerant to wind, tolerant to coastal 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**: dry, moist, wet | **Light requirements**: sun, partial shade | **pH range**: acidic, neutral, alkaline | **Host plant/forage plant**: bees, butterflies, birds, nectar value 5, pollen value 5 | **Extreme environments**: tolerant to salt spray, tolerant to dryness, tolerates air pollution

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: raceme, pendulous | **Flower colour**: yellow-green | **Flowering period**: May - May | **Leaf colour**: buds bronze, green, underside grey | **Leaves**: deciduous, underside hairy, serrate, lobate | **Autumn colour**: yellow | **Fruits**: winged | **Fruit colour**: cinnamon-brown | **Bark colour**: pale brown | **Bark**: peeling | **Twig colour**: cinnamon-brown | **Twigs**: bare | **Root system**: deep, extensive, highly branched

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