

# *Ailanthus altissima* 'Purple Dragon'

## Red-leaved tree of heaven



*Ailanthus altissima* 'Purple Dragon' (red-leaved tree of heaven) was selected by the Horticulture faculty at Corvinus University of Budapest in Hungary. The cultivar grows up to a maximum of 20 metres tall and thus remains just short of the main species. The crown has a broad, oval shape and an open structure.

In May, the long, pinnate, glossy leaves of the 'Purple Dragon' turn a lovely orange-red. In the summer, it is a deep red-violet and in June, the tree makes for a beautiful contrast with the large, standing white-green racemes. In the autumn, the tree bears orange-red, winged nuts in large racemes. These are toxic, striking to see and stay on the tree for a long time, even after the leaves fall. The bark is brown and lightly grooved and the twigs are grey-brown and hairy.

With its high nectar and pollen value, the red-leaved tree of heaven is an excellent host plant, which can easily handle urban conditions like air pollution. Heat, drought, moderate winds and salt spray are also well tolerated. The tree is suitable for planting in streets, avenues, parks and squares. But the red-leaved cultivar also thrives in central reservations, large gardens, along roads and in industrial locations. *Ailanthus altissima* 'Purple Dragon' has few soil requirements. Place it in the sun, otherwise the leaves can get a bit dark and gloomy.

### SEASONAL COLOURS



### TYPES OF PLANTING

**Tree types:** standard trees, multi-stemmed trees, shade trees, characteristic trees | **Topiary on stem:** multi-stem umbrella

### USE

**Location:** street, avenue, square, car park / parking lot, park, central reservation, large garden, traffic areas, industrial zones | **Pavement:** none, open, sealed | **Planting concepts:** Eco planting, Solid planting, urban planting

### CHARACTERISTICS

**Crown shape:** wide oval | **Crown structure:** open | **Height:** 15 - 20 m | **Width:** 10 - 15 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 6A - 9A

### ASPECTS

**Wind:** slightly tolerant to wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, peaty, heavy clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil, all soils | **Nutrient level:** low in nutrients, moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** very dry, dry, moist | **Light requirements:** sun, partial shade | **pH range:** acidic, neutral, alkaline | **Host plant/forage plant:** bees, nectar value 5, pollen value 5 | **Extreme environments:** tolerant to salt spray, tolerant to dryness, tolerates air pollution, tolerates heat

### PLANTKENMERKEN

**Flowers:** raceme, standing, big, flower-scented | **Flower colour:** white-green | **Flowering period:** June - July | **Leaf colour:** dark red, red-violet | **Leaves:** deciduous, lanceolate, big, polished, leaf scented, dentate, pinnate, composite | **Autumn colour:** orange-red | **Fruits:** striking, winged, toxic, large, raceme, nut | **Fruit colour:** red | **Bark colour:** brown, pale grey | **Bark:** slightly furrowed, striped | **Twig colour:** grey-brown | **Twigs:** hairy | **Root system:** shallow, extensive, fleshy roots, root suckers, roots push up surface