

Broussonetia papyrifera

Paper Mulberry, Tapa cloth tree



Broussonetia papyrifera (paper mulberry) is native to the subtropical regions of East Asia. From the beginning of our era, the species had already spread in Asia and Australia, as its bark was used to make barkcloth for clothing. In 1751, an English amateur gardener Peter Collinson took seeds from the tree to England and then to Europe. In cultivation, the paper mulberry reaches heights up to 12 metres. With its beautiful wide habit, it is a perfect shade tree.

In May, *Broussonetia papyrifera* blooms dioecious: with male and female flowers on individual trees. The male flowers are long, grey-blue catkins, and the female flowers are small, violet-blue balls. The female flowers bud into orange balls with many little edible fruits. The paper mulberry has large, slightly hairy, variable leaves, from lacinate and palmate to egg-shaped with a smooth edge. Its autumn colours are a deep warm yellow.

The paper mulberry requires a sunny environment, sheltered from wind, in nutrient-rich, dry to moist soil. The tree thrives in parks and central reservations, in cemeteries and in large gardens. To prevent bleeding, make sure to prune *Broussonetia papyrifera* during winter dormancy, between the time when the leaves start to fall and the beginning of winter.

SEASONAL COLOURS



TYPES OF PLANTING

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

USE

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

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: rounded | **Crown structure:** semi-open | **Height:** 8 - 12 m | **Width:** 6 - 10 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 7A - 11B

ASPECTS

Wind: intolerant to wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, light clay, sand | **Nutrient level:** rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** dry, moist | **Light requirements:** sun | **pH range:** acidic, neutral, alkaline (6.1 - 7.8) | **Host plant/forage plant:** bees, birds, small mammals | **Extreme environments:** tolerant to dryness

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: catkins, heads, striking | **Flower colour:** violet, blue | **Flowering period:** May - May | **Leaf colour:** green, underside grey-green | **Leaves:** deciduous, cordate, big, slightly hairy, lobate | **Autumn colour:** yellow | **Fruits:** striking, edible, large, drupe | **Fruit colour:** orange-red | **Bark colour:** grey-brown | **Bark:** slightly furrowed | **Twig colour:** brown | **Twigs:** hairy | **Root system:** shallow, fleshy roots