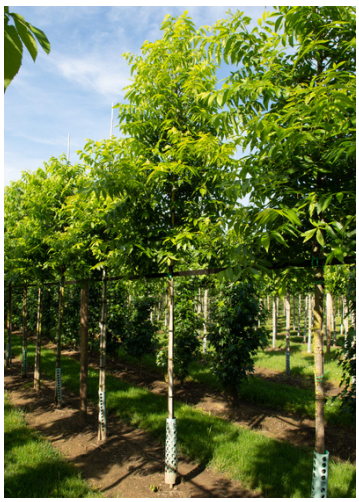


Carya illinoinensis
Pecan



Carya illinoinensis (pecan, synonym *Carya illinoensis*) comes from the Mississippi river basin in the United States. It is a sub-climax species that requires hot summers for good nut production. The pecan is a highly ornamental and majestic species and can be used as a shade tree in parks. As it matures, the pecan forms a broad, spreading, round, semi-open crown - where space allows, with monumental curved branches. *Carya illinoinensis* is very long-lived and can reach a height of 35 metres. German botanist Friedrich von Wangenheim first described the tree in 1777 as a Juglans, and another German botanist Karl Koch described it as a Carya in 1869.

Carya illinoinensis blooms in May, producing green-yellow catkins that hang down. After pollination nuts are produced, and in the Netherlands, these ripen around October to November. To ensure the fruits set, a minimum of 3 specimens need to be planted in a sunny and warm site. The unevenly pinnate leaves are green with a light green underside and emerge downy haired. The green summer foliage loses the pubescence and the autumn colour is a wonderful butter yellow. When rubbed, the leaf has an unpleasant aroma. The bark of the pecan is smooth and grey-brown for the first twenty years and then often develops irregular grooves and platelets. *Carya illinoinensis* has grey-green to olive brown branches, they are resistant to wind and emerge slightly hairy.

As a juvenile tree, *Carya illinoinensis* requires good supportive pruning in order to obtain an upright trunk. The species is not particular about soil but moisture-retentive and fertile soils ensure the healthiest growth. Persistent waterlogging can lead to anthracnose and verticillium in spring, and so should be avoided. Around 200 cultivars have been selected specifically for nut production. *Carya illinoinensis* is a magnificent tree for use in parks and large gardens - on nutrient-rich soils. Similar in appearance, the pecan nut also makes a very useful alternative for ash trees.

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

USE
Location: park, central reservation, large garden, cemetery, countryside | **Pavement**: none | **Planting concepts**: food forest, urban planting

CHARACTERISTICS
Crown shape: rounded, egg-shaped | **Crown structure**: semi-open | **Height**: 20 - 35 m | **Width**: 12 - 25 m | **Winter hardiness zone**: 6A - 9B

ASPECTS
Wind: tolerant to wind | **Soil**: loess, sabulous clay, peaty, light clay, sand, loamy soil | **Nutrient level**: moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level**: moist, wet | **Light requirements**: sun | **pH range**: acidic, neutral, alkaline | **Host plant/forage plant**: birds, small mammals, humans | **Extreme environments**: tolerant to dryness, tolerant to short-term flooding

PLANTKENMERKEN
Flowers: catkins, discrete, pendulous | **Flower colour**: yellow-green | **Flowering period**: May - May | **Leaf colour**: green, buds pale green | **Leaves**: deciduous, big, underside hairy, scented with contusion, serrate, pinnate, composite | **Autumn colour**: dark yellow | **Fruits**: striking, edible, nut, husk | **Fruit colour**: brown | **Bark colour**: grey-brown | **Bark**: peeling, furrowed, smooth, later on rough | **Twig colour**: pale brown, grey-green | **Twigs**: hairy, bare, pendulous, long shoots | **Root system**: deep, tap root, clinging aerial roots

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