

Cedrus libani
Libanon Cedar



Cedrus libani (cedar of Lebanon) comes from Lebanon, Turkey and Syria and is an iconic tree in many myths and tales. The species occurs in particular on mountain slopes with for example *Malus trilobata* and *Abies cilicica*, although the tree is also planted for timber production. The ultimate height is attained after 100 to 150 years after which the tree continues to grow widthways. The cedar of Lebanon invests in its roots first of all and only then puts on any vertical growth above ground. In the wild it reaches a height of as much as 40 metres although in cultivation it will tend to be 25 metres. In its juvenile state the cedar of Lebanon displays pyramidal growth. In maturity this becomes horizontal, creating a characteristic form with flat top. *Cedrus libani* grows more slowly than *Cedrus deodara*.

The cedar of Lebanon often develops a low-branching structure with horizontal to slightly upward-pointing branches. The other twigs grow horizontally also. The bark of juvenile trees is smooth but peels in dark grey to black platelets in older trees. The short, stiff needles are arranged in bundles of 20 to 40 and are green to grey green in colour. The cedar of Lebanon has short-stemmed, grey-green cones which change to brown when ripe after 2 years. The fragrant catkins bloom yellow-brown in September.

Cedrus libani tolerates a wide range of soils and can cope with few nutrients. Drought is not a problem either thanks to the taproot the tree puts down. The cedar of Lebanon is, therefore, a pioneer species - and a long-lived one too - and thrives in (urban) growing conditions where it provides shade in sites with sufficient space on account of its magnificent form. Wet and shade on the other hand are not tolerated. The tree tolerates temperatures down to -17 degrees Celsius. *Cedrus libani* does not produce resin but produces oil which makes the wood more sustainable.

TYPES OF PLANTING
Tree types: standard trees, feathered trees, conifers

USE
Location: square, park, central reservation, large garden, cemetery, traffic areas, industrial zones | **Pavement**: none, open, sealed

CHARACTERISTICS
Crown shape: pyramidal | **Crown structure**: semi-open | **Height**: 20 - 25 m | **Width**: 15 - 20 m | **Winter hardiness zone**: 7A - 8B

ASPECTS
Wind: tolerant to wind | **Soil**: loess, sabulous clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil | **Nutrient level**: low in nutrients, moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level**: dry, moist | **Light requirements**: sun | **pH range**: acidic, neutral | **Extreme environments**: tolerant to dryness, tolerates air pollution

PLANTKENMERKEN
Flowers: catkins, discrete, standing, flower-scented | **Flower colour**: yellow-brown | **Flowering period**: September - September | **Leaf colour**: green, grey-green | **Leaves**: evergreen, short needles | **Fruits**: small, cones | **Fruit colour**: brown | **Bark colour**: grey-black | **Bark**: peeling, smooth, later on rough | **Twig colour**: grey | **Twigs**: hairy, bare | **Root system**: deep, tap root

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