

Citrus trifoliata

Bitter orange, Hardy orange, Trifoliat orange



Citrus trifoliata (bitter orange) comes from Korea and northern China. In its native habitat it grows in wooded banks and as undergrowth in forests and on slopes. The bitter orange grows into an irregular large shrub or small tree two to six metres tall, two to four and a half metres wide, and forms a round, semi-open crown which develops characteristically and asymmetrically.

Although *Citrus trifoliata* is a deciduous shrub, the green twigs and bark provide beautiful greenery in the winter. The flat, smooth shoots bear large spines and thus provide perfect shelter for birds. The small trifoliate leaf is made up of inversely obovate leaflets. It emerges light green in spring and changes to darker green in the summer, ending up a magnificent yellow to orange in autumn. In April and May, the bitter orange produces cup-shaped, scented, pure white flowers. These are followed by hairy fruits which look like green lemons and later turn yellow. They have the form of a small orange and a strong lemon scent. They need to be used in marmalade for example to be palatable.

Citrus trifoliata responds very well to pruning: from hedging to bonsai, everything is possible. Pruning creates even denser branching. This hardy tree prefers a fairly sunny and sheltered position. In cool regions - owing to its hardiness - it is also used as a rootstock for *Citrus limonia* (lemon tree with edible fruits). *Citrus trifoliata* tolerates many types of soil except for extremely wet or dry conditions. This striking shrub can best be planted in a garden or park, where it can provide a tropical accent.

SEASONAL COLOURS



TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: characteristic trees, solitary shrubs | **Topiary on stem:** multi-stem umbrella

USE

Location: park, central reservation, in containers, roof garden, large garden, small garden | **Pavement:** none | **Planting concepts:** food forest, Prairie planting

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: rounded | **Crown structure:** semi-open | **Height:** 2 - 6 m | **Width:** 1.5 - 4.5 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 5A - 9B

ASPECTS

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

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: bowl-shaped, striking, singular, big, strongly scented | **Flower colour:** white | **Flowering period:** April - May | **Leaf colour:** green, buds pale green | **Leaves:** deciduous, ovoid, crenate, ternate | **Autumn colour:** yellow | **Fruits:** striking, edible, drupe | **Fruit colour:** yellow | **Bark colour:** green | **Bark:** smooth | **Twig colour:** green | **Twigs:** thorned