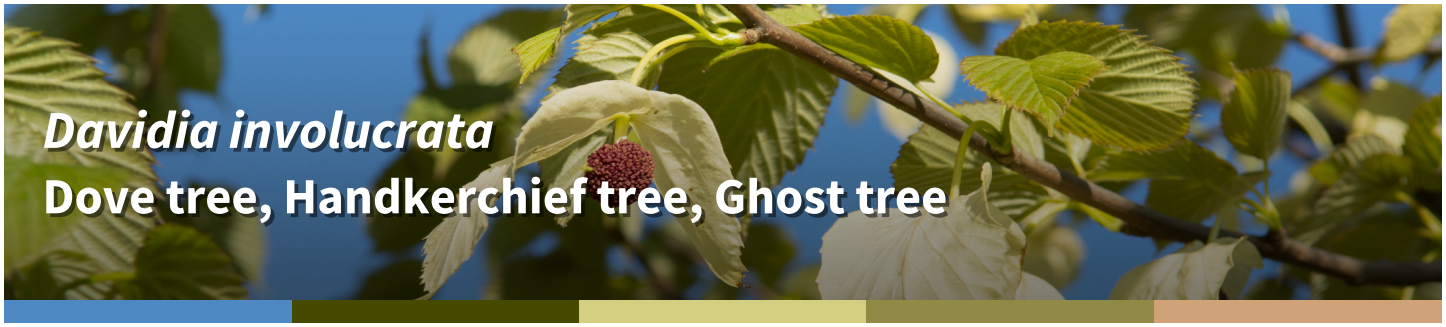


Davidia involucrata
Dove tree, Handkerchief tree, Ghost tree



Davidia involucrata (pocket handkerchief tree, dove tree) originates from China but is endangered there due to loss of habitat. In its natural habitat it grows in forests with, amongst others, *Acer palmatum*, *Cercidiphyllum japonicum* and *Cornus controversa*. *Davidia involucrata* is named after catholic priest Armand David, who discovered and described it in 1869. In nature, the pocket handkerchief tree will reach a height of around twenty metres but in cultivation this is limited to twelve to fifteen metres tall. The wide crown shape nine to twelve metres across resembles that of a lime; wide pyramidal becoming wide egg-shaped to rounded in maturity.

At the end of May or in early June the pocket handkerchief tree is a real eye-catcher with its striking abundant blooms. The small, fragrant flowers are arranged in red-violet spherical clusters on a stem measuring around six centimetres long. What stands out most of all, however, are the two pristine white bracts twenty centimetres long above the flowers, resembling handkerchiefs. Once it has finished flowering, the tree also bears striking, large, yellowy brown stone fruits. The heart-shaped, toothed leaf emerges bronze and changes to green in summer. Unlike *Davidia involucrata* var. *vilmoriniana*, the leaf of *Davidia involucrata* has a hairy underside which makes it appear almost white. In the autumn, the rather unspectacular autumn foliage ranges from dark green, reddish-purple to brown. The pocket handkerchief tree has an attractive brown, peeling bark with an orange under bark and glabrous, red-brown twigs.

Davidia involucrata tolerates wind but should be planted in a sheltered position because it is sensitive to late frosts. The tree is only suitable for use in nutrient-rich and moisture-retentive soil, in sun or partial shade. This makes it an excellent choice for example in large gardens and parks. The species naturally forms a multi-stem tree and is, therefore, at its most attractive as such but can also be cultivated as a standard. Davidia involucrata blooms with age.

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

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

CHARACTERISTICS
Crown shape: rounded, wide egg-shaped, wide pyramidal | **Crown structure**: semi-open | **Height**: 12 - 15 m | **Width**: 9 - 12 m | **Winter hardiness zone**: 5A - 8B

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**: moist | **Light requirements**: sun, partial shade | **pH range**: acidic, neutral | **Host plant/forage plant**: bees, butterflies | **Extreme environments**: tolerates air pollution

PLANTKENMERKEN
Flowers: heads, striking, pendulous, big, flower-scented | **Flower colour**: cream-white, brown-violet | **Flowering period**: May - June | **Leaf colour**: buds bronze, green, underside grey-green | **Leaves**: deciduous, cordate, underside hairy, dentate | **Autumn colour**: brown, red-brown, red-violet, green-brown | **Fruits**: striking, large, drupe | **Fruit colour**: yellow-brown | **Bark colour**: pale brown, brown, cinnamon-brown | **Bark**: peeling | **Twig colour**: pale brown, red-brown | **Twigs**: bare | **Root system**: deep, moderately branched, coarse roots, fleshy roots

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