

Diospyros virginiana
Common persimmon, American persimmon, simmon, possumwood, possum apples, sugar plum



Diospyros virginiana (Common persimmon, American persimmon, simmon, possumwood, possum apples, sugar plum) is native to large areas of the Eastern USA where the tree grows together with *Acer rubrum, Liriodendron tulipifera* and *Platanus occidentalis*. On nutrient-rich, moist soils *Diospyros virginiana* forms an elegant, broad-growing, medium-sized tree twenty metres tall and in cultivation approximately six to twelve metres tall. The oval to egg-shaped, semi-open crown grows between six and eight metres wide and is formed by horizontal branches from the trunk.

The fruits of *Diospyros virginiana* - known locally as *persimmons* - are grown commercially on a large scale. The yellow to yellow-orange plums are three to six centimetres in size and perceptibly larger than those of *Diospyros lotus*. The tomato-like fruits are not only consumed by humans but also by birds and mammals. The healthy, oblong, glossy dark green foliage alone makes *Diospyros virginiana* a terrific variety to use. The foliage emerges bronze and the attractive yellow autumnal foliage also adds to the decorative value of the tree. At the end of May or early June the American persimmon bears inconspicuous yellow-pink, bell-shaped flowers. Male and female flowers are required to ensure good fruit production although female trees also bear seedless fruits without a male specimen in the vicinity. *Diospyros virginiana* has a very beautiful grey, rough bark and glabrous brown shoots.

Diospyros virginiana thrives as a pioneer species on most soils and is tolerant of sun and drought. The strongest specimens however are found in damp and richer river valleys on soils which do not flood, or flood a little. This makes *Diospyros virginiana* also suitable for planting in wadis. The American persimmon is especially good for planting in parks, central reservations, gardens and food forests. Its taproot means that *Diospyros virginiana* does not transplant easily.

SEASONAL COLOURS



jan feb mar apr mei jun jul aug sep okt nov dec

TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, half-stem trees, multi-stemmed trees, characteristic trees, fruit trees

USE

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

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: egg-shaped | **Crown structure**: semi-open | **Height**: 6 - 12 m | **Width**: 6 - 8 m | **Winter hardiness zone**: 6A - 8B

ASPECTS

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

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: bell-shaped, discrete, small | **Flower colour**: yellow-pink | **Flowering period**: May - June | **Leaf colour**: buds bronze, dark green | **Leaves**: deciduous, ovoid, leathery , matt polished | **Autumn colour**: yellow | **Fruits**: striking, rich fruit yield, edible, plum | **Fruit colour**: yellow, yellow-orange | **Bark colour**: grey | **Bark**: deeply furrowed | **Twig colour**: brown | **Twigs**: bare | **Root system**: tap root,

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