

Eucommia ulmoides
Hardy rubber tree



Eucommia ulmoides (Hardy rubber tree) originates in Central and Western China and was found by the English plant collector E.H. Wilson around 1895. The hardy rubber tree is a monotypic genus, meaning that there is only one species. The species naturally grows irregularly, and is more shrub-like than upright, but with the right pruning the strong grower can still reach a height of up to 18 metres with a wide, dense, oval crown that is semi-open when it gets older. Though they are not related, the *Eucommia ulmoides* species gets its name from various similarities with *Ulmus*, the elm.

The hardy rubber tree blooms green, pompom-shaped racemes in April. In the summer, it bears winged, yellow-green nuts, which look a lot like the fruits on the elm. The beautiful glossy, egg-shaped, thick and leathery leaves bud dark green, keeping their colour in summer and turning yellow in autumn. *Eucommia ulmoides* is the only rubber-producing tree on the northern hemisphere. The rubber is extracted from the leaves: if you tear the leaf, you'll see threads of white latex keeping the two halves of the leaf together.

Eucommia ulmoides is winter-hardy and can withstand heat, drought, wind and air pollution. Furthermore, the species is not sensitive to plagues or diseases, making it a great alternative to elms. The hardy rubber tree has few soil requirements, but prefers a sunny environment in moist but permeable soil. *Eucommia ulmoides* is a great species for parks, but particularly has a lot of potential as a tree on streets, avenues or squares for future green infrastructure projects.

TYPES OF PLANTING

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

USE

Location: avenue, park, central reservation, roof garden, large garden, cemetery, traffic areas, industrial zones | **Pavement**: none, open | **Planting concepts**: Climate planting, urban planting

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: wide oval | **Crown structure**: dense | **Height**: 12 - 18 m | **Width**: 8 - 12 m | **Winter hardiness zone**: 4B - 7B

ASPECTS

Wind: tolerant to wind | **Soil**: loess, sabulous clay, peaty, heavy clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil, all soils | **Nutrient level**: rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level**: dry, moist, wet | **Light requirements**: sun, partial shade | **pH range**: acidic, neutral, alkaline | **Extreme environments**: tolerant to dryness, tolerates air pollution, tolerates heat

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: raceme, pompom-shaped, discrete | **Flower colour**: green | **Flowering period**: April - May | **Leaf colour**: dark green | **Leaves**: deciduous, ovate, ovoid, thick, leathery , polished, serrate | **Autumn colour**: yellow | **Fruits**: striking, winged | **Fruit colour**: yellow-green | **Bark colour**: pale brown | **Bark**: furrowed | **Twig colour**: grey-brown | **Twigs**: with lenticels | **Root system**: deep, extensive, many hair roots

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