

# Fraxinus ornus

## Manna ash, South European flowering ash



*Fraxinus ornus* (manna ash) is a small to medium sized deciduous tree, but on nutrient poor, shallow, rocky soils it is more like a big shrub rather than a tree. The manna ash develops a rounded, slightly conical and irregular crown shape, approximately eight to fifteen metres high and wide. It was first described by the Swedish botanist, Carl Linneaus in 1753. *Fraxinus ornus* is native to southeast Europe and Asia-Minor where it is growing on dry and exposed rocky cliffs, dry scrubby woodlands together with *Amelanchier ovalis*, *Cotinus coggygia* and *Quercus pubescens*. This tree could develop a single stem, however it could also be seen as multistemmed tree after pollarding, which means it takes some pruning and serious pollarding.

White fragrant flowers are blooming in panicles in May and beautifully covering the whole tree, which is the most ornamental feature of this species. The flowers of *Fraxinus ornus* are providing nectar for many insects, while the tree itself supports a great number of birds and smaller mammals to nest and hide. The compound leaves are pinnate with 5-9 leaflets, which are dull green and somewhat shiny. During autumn the foliage turns in different shades from yellow to crimson or orange. Fruits are 2-3 cm long samaras, dispersed by the wind later on in winter. The bark is smooth, greyish coloured and peeling in small pieces at a later age.

*Fraxinus ornus* is future proof tree, growing on various soils and rocks from alkaline to acidic. Once established it requires no watering, surviving the hottest months without any problem. Also wind and roadsalt are no problem for the manna ash. In rich, deep soils it can reach a decent size if it is planted on full, baking sun to let the new shoots ripen, also to get the best autumn colour. The manna ash could be used in medium to larger gardens and parks, but also on more challenging site in paving, for example wide streets and squares. Even on roofs and in containers it will stay perfectly happy.

### SEASONAL COLOURS



### TYPES OF PLANTING

**Tree types:** standard trees, multi-stemmed trees, characteristic trees, woodland planting stock | **Topiary on stem:** multi-stem umbrella

### USE

**Location:** avenue, square, car park / parking lot, park, central reservation, in containers, roof garden, large garden, cemetery, traffic areas, industrial zones, coastal area | **Pavement:** none, open, sealed | **Planting concepts:** Eco planting, Solid planting, Prairie planting

### CHARACTERISTICS

**Crown shape:** rounded, wide oval | **Crown structure:** semi-open | **Height:** 8 - 15 m | **Width:** 6 - 12 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 7A - 9B

### ASPECTS

**Wind:** tolerant to wind, slightly tolerant to coastal 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:** very dry, dry, moist | **Light requirements:** sun, partial shade | **pH range:** acidic, neutral, alkaline | **Host plant/forage plant:** bees, birds, small mammals | **Extreme environments:** tolerant to salt spray, tolerant to dryness, tolerates air pollution, tolerates heat, not susceptible to ash dieback

### PLANTKENMERKEN

**Flowers:** panicle, striking, big, scented | **Flower colour:** cream-white | **Flowering period:** May - May | **Leaf colour:** matt green, buds bright green | **Leaves:** deciduous, ovoid, lanceolate, serrate, pinnate, composite | **Autumn colour:** yellow-orange, orange, orange-red, red-violet | **Fruits:** striking, rich fruit yield, winged, raceme | **Fruit colour:** red-brown | **Bark colour:** grey | **Bark:** smooth, later on rough | **Twig colour:** grey | **Twigs:** bare | **Root system:** shallow, extensive, highly branched