

# *Hippophae salicifolia* 'Robert'

## 'Robert' Willow-leaved sea buckthorn



*Hippophae salicifolia* 'Robert' ('Robert' Willow-leaved sea buckthorn) is a tree-form selection of the willow-leaved sea buckthorn. The cultivar was discovered by and named after Robert de Belder, founder of the Arboretum Kalmthout in Belgium. The 'Robert' willow-leaved sea buckthorn grows to be an irregular tree, between 8 - 12 metres tall with hanging branches and an open, wide, egg-shaped, irregular crown between 6 - 9 metres wide.

The narrow, willow-like leaves of *Hippophae salicifolia* 'Robert' are a sight to behold. They bud grey-green with a white-grey, hairy underside and turn yellow in autumn. Young stems and twigs are covered in brown felt, feel very soft and have thorns, though not as many as the *Hippophae rhamnoides*. As the tree ages, it forms a beautiful bark, which peels off in long strips. The selection blooms discrete, yellow-green flowers in late April, early May. The 'Robert' willow-leaved sea buckthorn does not bear fruit, which is a major advantage for planting in public areas.

The tree that *Hippophae salicifolia* 'Robert' came from originated at heights of 3,000 metres, in the dry hilled valleys of the Himalaya. Therefore, the pioneer species tolerates pavement and salt spray very well. But it can also handle heat, drought and extreme cold, to temperatures of -30°C. Despite *Hippophae salicifolia* naturally growing far from the sea, the species and 'Robert' selection can handle coastal winds very well. The cultivar does not like shade, making it a perfect standard tree for sunny squares, car parks, streets and avenues. But the irregular, transparent grower also offers a lot of value in central reservations, parks and gardens. The 'Robert' willow-leaved sea buckthorn can grow in both extremely dry and extremely moist soil and prefers acidic to slightly lime-rich soil. *Hippophae salicifolia* 'Robert' is able to enrich soil by fixing nitrogen from the air and by its intricate root system securing soil.

### SEASONAL COLOURS



### TYPES OF PLANTING

**Tree types:** standard trees, multi-stemmed trees, climate trees, characteristic trees

### USE

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

### CHARACTERISTICS

**Crown shape:** wide egg-shaped | **Crown structure:** open | **Height:** 8 - 12 m | **Width:** 6 - 9 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 3A - 7B

### ASPECTS

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

### PLANTKENMERKEN

**Flowers:** discrete | **Flower colour:** yellow-green | **Flowering period:** April - May | **Leaf colour:** grey-green, underside white-grey | **Leaves:** deciduous, lanceolate, narrow, polished, underside hairy, Nitrogen fixing | **Autumn colour:** yellow | **Fruits:** no fruit | **Bark colour:** pale brown | **Bark:** peeling | **Twig colour:** yellow-brown | **Twigs:** slightly thorned, hairy, vertical branches | **Root system:** highly branched, many hair roots, tap root, central root, root suckers