

Malus 'Butterball'

Butterball Crabapple



Malus 'Butterball' (ornamental apple 'Butterball') is an ornamental apple tree with a characteristic, whimsical growth habit, rich flowering in spring and an abundance of yellow apples afterwards. The tree was introduced in 1956 by the Washington Park Arboretum, Seattle, United States. 'Butterball' is a seedling of *Malus x zumi* 'Calocarpa', which in turn originates from *Malus toringo* x *Malus baccata* var. *mandshurica*. *Malus* 'Butterball' eventually reaches a height of four to six metres with a five to six metre wide, open crown. This crown is picturesque with widely spreading, upright branches, which later hang down more.

In May, *Malus* 'Butterball' produces beautiful flowers: starting with pink buds that unfold into white flowers three to four centimetres in size. After flowering, the tree develops small, shiny butter-yellow, apple-shaped fruits with an orange blush - they have a diameter of two to three centimetres. These fruits often remain on the tree for a long time, provided they are not all eaten by birds, which gives them extra decorative value in winter. The light green leaves are fairly broad, egg-shaped to elongated, and have a serrated edge. In autumn, the foliage turns yellow-orange.

Malus 'Butterball' is a very strong, elegant ornamental apple tree for gardens and park-like environments. Its limited height and wide spread make it ideal for places where larger trees are not suitable, or where planting at eye level is preferred. Butterball is also valuable for biodiversity: its spring blossoms attract pollinators such as bees and butterflies, and its fruits provide food for birds and can also be made into a delicious jelly. In terms of soil, the 'Butterball' crab apple is quite demanding in terms of soil fertility and moisture supply and performs best in humus-rich, well-drained soils in full sun. On the other hand, crab apples are often more tolerant than ornamental cherries, for example, and the 'Butterball' crab apple is also scab-resistant.

SEASONAL COLOURS



TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, multi-stemmed trees, characteristic trees, solitary shrubs

USE

Location: park, central reservation, in containers, roof garden, large garden, small garden, cemetery, traffic areas, industrial zones | **Pavement:** none | **Planting concepts:** food forest, Eco planting

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: flattened spherical | **Crown structure:** semi-open | **Height:** 4 - 6 m | **Width:** 5 - 6 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 5B - 8B

ASPECTS

Wind: tolerant to wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, peaty, heavy clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil, all soils | **Nutrient level:** moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** dry, moist | **Light requirements:** sun | **pH range:** acidic, neutral, alkaline | **Host plant/forage plant:** bees, butterflies, birds, nectar value 3, pollen value 3 | **Extreme environments:** tolerates air pollution

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: star-shaped, striking, singular | **Flower colour:** white | **Flowering period:** May - May | **Leaf colour:** bright green, underside felty white | **Leaves:** deciduous, ovate, wide, slightly hairy, serrate | **Autumn colour:** yellow-orange | **Fruits:** striking, rich fruit yield, small, raceme, crabapple/ornamental apple | **Fruit colour:** golden yellow, orange | **Bark colour:** grey-brown | **Bark:** furrowed, smooth | **Twig colour:** grey-brown | **Twigs:** bare, with lenticels, horizontal branches, pendulous, finely branched | **Root system:** shallow, extensive, highly branched, central root