

# *Paulownia tomentosa* 'Hulsdonk'

## Empress tree 'Hulsdonk'



*Paulownia tomentosa* 'Hulsdonk' (Empress tree 'Hulsdonk') was selected by Dutch nurseryman Cees Hulsdonk from *Paulownia tomentosa* seedlings. The cultivar stood out because of its blossom as a young plant - earlier than the species - and the more controlled appearance. Empress tree 'Hulsdonk' has a semi-open round crown, ten metres tall and the same wide.

The violet-blue, bell-shaped to trumpet-shaped flowers of *Paulownia tomentosa* 'Hulsdonk' appear in May and consist of erect, fragrant panicles. Bees are very attracted to them. The flower buds which are clearly visible in the tree are brown and formed in the previous summer before the blossom. After flowering egg-shaped, pointed seed capsules are produced containing winged fruits. The heart-shaped, bronze new leaf does not emerge until after the blossom, changes to green in summer and is up to fifty centimetres big in young trees. The leaf gets smaller as the tree matures. *Paulownia tomentosa* 'Hulsdonk' has fast-growing, evenly spread branching over the crown and hollow, brown stems covered with lenticels.

*Paulownia tomentosa* 'Hulsdonk' is a wonderful selection with all the good characteristics of the species. The tree tolerates heat, drought and air pollution and enjoys a site on moderately nutrient-rich soil that is not overly wet. Cultivar 'Hulsdonk' requires adequate room to grow because too little light may result in dead branches. In addition, empress tree 'Hulsdonk' prefers a sheltered site because of its reasonably wind-sensitive branches. For this reason - and because of the strong roots - *Paulownia tomentosa* 'Hulsdonk' performs best in parks, large gardens or green open spaces.

### TYPES OF PLANTING

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

### USE

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

### CHARACTERISTICS

**Crown shape:** rounded | **Crown structure:** semi-open | **Height:** 8 - 10 m | **Width:** 8 - 10 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 4B - 9B

### ASPECTS

**Wind:** intolerant to wind | **Soil:** loess, light clay, sand, loamy soil | **Nutrient level:** moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** moist | **Light requirements:** sun | **pH range:** acidic, neutral, alkaline | **Host plant/forage plant:** bees, nectar value 1, pollen value 1 | **Extreme environments:** tolerant to dryness, tolerates air pollution, tolerates heat

### PLANTKENMERKEN

**Flowers:** raceme, bell-shaped, striking, standing, big, flower-scented | **Flower colour:** blue-violet | **Flowering period:** May - May | **Leaf colour:** buds bronze, bright green, underside grey-green | **Leaves:** deciduous, cordate, big, hairy | **Autumn colour:** yellow-brown | **Fruits:** striking, raceme, capsule | **Fruit colour:** cinnamon-brown | **Bark colour:** grey-brown | **Bark:** striped | **Twig colour:** brown | **Twigs:** with lenticels | **Root system:** extensive, coarse roots, fleshy roots, root suckers

