# *Phellodendron amurense*
## Amur Cork tree

*Phellodendron amurense* (Amur cork tree) naturally occurs in the Amur valley, on the border between North-East China and Russia. There, the tree grows in forests, along with trees including *Pinus koraiensis, Fraxinus mandshurica* and *Maackia amurensis.* The Amur cork tree was discovered by the Russian botanist Friedrich Schmidt in 1845 and described by the German doctor and botanist Franz Joseph Ruprecht in 1853. The species forms an impressive but elegant, wide vase-shaped crown which is about 12 metres long and at least as wide. Its natural growth habit is multi-stem or low-branched with heavy main branches on a short stem. The Amur cork tree grows quite quickly at a young age.

In May, *Phellodendron amurense* blooms standing, hairy, yellow-green panicles. After blooming, racemes of stonefruits appear that go from green to black, which stay on the tree almost all winter long. The leaves are compound and irregular pinnate, glossy dark green with a more blue-green underside. The leaves turn bright yellow in autumn, but they do fall off the tree quite quickly. Bark, fruits and leaves are scented with contusion, and smell of turpentine. The name of the species *Phellodendron* comes from the Greek *Phellos*, meaning cork, and the word *Dendron*, meaning tree. That refers to the spectacular cork-like, light brown bark the trunk and heavy main branches are covered with. The dried, ground raw bark is one of the fifty basic ingredients in Chinese medicine.

*Phellodendron amurense* has no diseases, is very winterhardy and tolerates draught very well. The species does require quite nutrient-rich soil in a sheltered area. The Amur cork tree does not like wind. It cannot handle pavement either. With its width, *Phellodendron amurense* is best used in parks and large gardens. In younger trees, the branches can freeze, which is why it is safer to plant larger trees.

**SEASONAL COLOURS**

jan feb mar apr mei jun jul aug sep okt nov dec

**TYPES OF PLANTING**

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

**USE**

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

**CHARACTERISTICS**

**Crown shape**: flattened spherical | **Crown structure**: semi-open | **Height**: 10 - 12 m | **Width**: 10 - 12 m | **Winter hardiness zone**: 5A - 8B

**ASPECTS**

**Wind**: slightly tolerant to wind | **Soil**: loess, sabulous clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil | **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, nectar value 3, pollen value 0 | **Extreme environments**: tolerant to dryness, tolerates air pollution

**PLANTKENMERKEN**

**Flowers**: discrete | **Flower colour**: yellow-green | **Flowering period**: May - May | **Leaf colour**: green | **Leaves**: deciduous, ovoid, pinnate | **Autumn colour**: yellow | **Fruits**: discrete, berry | **Fruit colour**: black | **Bark colour**: grey-brown | **Bark**: deeply furrowed, corky | **Twig colour**: yellow, brown | **Twigs**: bare

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