Platanus orientalis
Oriental Plane tree, Old World sycamore

Platanus orientalis (oriental plane) is a large, deciduous tree and was described in 1753 by Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus. The oriental plane assumes a very monumental character thanks to the low branches and horizontal branching. It can grow into a single-stem or multi-stem tree reaching a great size of more than thirty metres tall and twenty-five metres across. The oriental plane is found in the Balkans, Crete, Cyprus and Asia Minor and has been traditionally planted in India. It grows mainly in seasonally humid environments and can be found alongside *Salix caprea, Ficus carica* and *Populus alba* along watercourses where the roots are able to reach the groundwater on rocky soil.

The leaves of the oriental plane are very thick and leathery, palmate and often more deeply lobed than those of *Platanus* x *hispanica*. The leaves are light green when they emerge and become deep green in the summer. In the autumn the colours are yellow and russet-brown. The inconspicuous male and female flowers come out late in the spring. They develop into striking globose fruits on stalks in groups of three to six and stay well on into winter. These seeds are distributed by the wind. The bark is grey and peels off in green-brown and creamy platelets.

Platanus orientalis can be very long-lived and is a valuable tree for extreme weather conditions because it adapts to very dry conditions and can cope with temporary flooding. Its size means it is only suitable for larger gardens and parks and on city squares but because it responds very well to heavy pruning it can be trained into many forms. This makes the oriental plane suitable also for smaller and narrower sites where limited space is available. The leaf canopy is very dense and much-prized in its native range for this reason. Since the dawn of time, it has been planted in village squares close to a water source and in areas where people can enjoy spending their evenings during hot summers.

TYPES OF PLANTING

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

USE

Location: avenue, square, park, large garden, cemetery, traffic areas, industrial zones, bioswale | **Pavement**: none, open, sealed | **Planting concepts**: Solid planting, urban planting

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: rounded, wide oval | **Crown structure**: dense, semi-open | **Height**: 18 - 30 m | **Width**: 15 - 25 m | **Winter hardiness zone**: 6B - 9A

ASPECTS

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

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: heads, discrete | **Flower colour**: yellow-green | **Flowering period**: May - May | **Leaf colour**: green, buds pale green | **Leaves**: deciduous, palmate, big, polished, hairy, dissected, dentate, lobate | **Autumn colour**: yellow, yellow-brown | **Fruits**: striking, large, capsule, capsules | **Fruit colour**: brown | **Bark colour**: cream, grey-green, grey | **Bark**: peeling, smooth | **Twig colour**: brown | **Twigs**: bare, horizontal branches, long shoots | **Root system**: deep, shallow, highly branched, coarse roots

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