

Sequoiadendron giganteum
giant sequoia, giant redwood, Sierra redwood, Wellingtonia



Sequoiadendron giganteum (giant sequoia) grows in isolated areas along the western foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains in the United States. In its native habitat, the giant sequoia grows together with species such as *Abies concolor*, *Pseudotsuga menziesii* and *Calocedrus decurrens*. These extraordinary and imposing conifers are among the most famous trees in the world because of their immense size, reaching up to 100 meters in height, and their exceptional longevity of up to 3200 years. In cultivation, the species typically grows to about thirty five to fifty meters tall, with a narrow pyramidal crown that reaches a width of only eight to nine meters. Shaded branches die back, which results in tall, bare trunks.

The deeply furrowed bark is the most striking feature. The bark is soft and fibrous and can become sixty centimeters thick, giving the tree protection against forest fires. The reddish brown twigs with scaly bark hang slightly and have upturned tips. The needles are scale like, sharp and short, and they are blue green, which contrasts beautifully with the bark. The conical flowers of this monoecious species are inconspicuous and appear between April and May. The seed cones that follow are five to eight centimeters long and may remain green on the tree for eight to twelve years.

The natural climate in which the giant sequoia thrives is humid with dry summers. Deep, well drained yet moist and fertile sandy loam soils provide the best growing conditions, although many soil types ranging from acidic to calcareous are tolerated. *Sequoiadendron giganteum* is difficult to transplant. The best period is from early to late autumn when the trees are still actively growing. These monumental trees are a spectacular addition to any park or large garden and inspire admiration among both young and old.

TYPES OF PLANTING
Tree types: standard trees, feathered trees, conifers

USE
Location: park, large garden, cemetery | **Pavement**: none

CHARACTERISTICS
Crown shape: pyramidal | **Crown structure**: dense | **Height**: 30 - 50 m | **Width**: 8 - 10 m | **Winter hardiness zone**: 7A - 9B

ASPECTS
Wind: tolerant to wind | **Soil**: loess, sabulous clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil | **Nutrient level**: moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level**: moist, wet | **Light requirements**: sun | **pH range**: acidic, neutral, alkaline | **Host plant/forage plant**: birds

PLANTKENMERKEN
Flowers: discrete, pendulous, small | **Flower colour**: yellow-brown | **Flowering period**: April - May | **Leaf colour**: blue-green, green | **Leaves**: evergreen, needles or scales, short needles | **Fruits**: discrete, cones | **Fruit colour**: brown | **Bark colour**: orange, brown | **Bark**: peeling, furrowed | **Twig colour**: red-brown | **Twigs**: pendulous | **Root system**: deep, tap root

EBBEN trees since 1862
TreeEbb