

Sorbus aucuparia var. *edulis* 'Edulis' rowan, 'Edulis' mountain-ash



Sorbus aucuparia var. *edulis* is a variety of *Sorbus aucuparia* that occurs naturally in the forested mountain regions of northwestern former Czechoslovakia. The variety was selected and introduced in 1887 by Baumschule Dieck in Heidgraben, Germany. This rowan becomes a substantial tree, reaching twelve to sixteen meters in height with upward angled branches. The fairly open crown is more regular in shape than that of the species, ovate, and grows to about six meters wide. The edible wild rowan forms a true tree shape and is therefore available only as an avenue tree.

The white flowers of *Sorbus aucuparia* var. *edulis* appear in May in large clusters with a somewhat musty scent. Bees, butterflies and other insects, however, are very fond of them. The dull green leaves are longer than those of the species and have larger leaflets. These are spaced relatively far apart, are fairly narrow, taper to a pointed tip and are lightly hairy on the underside. Depending on the site, the foliage turns various shades of yellow, orange and red in autumn. The large, dark orange red fruit clusters are also bigger than those of the species and, as the varietal name suggests, edible. Although the sweet sour fruits are rich in vitamins, the taste is not exceptional, but they are less bitter than the fruits of other *Sorbus aucuparia* trees and cultivars. Birds love them. The weight of the fruit causes the branch tips to droop slightly.

As a pioneer tree, the edible wild rowan grows on a wide range of soils, provided they are not compacted and contain enough oxygen. The species does not tolerate paved conditions. As a young tree it tolerates some shade, but this decreases as it matures. The variety is very winter hardy and withstands wind well. This makes the tree suitable for rooftop gardens, although it performs even better in parks, gardens or landscape settings. It is also a valuable addition to food forests. One point of attention is that streets or avenues must provide open planting pits for this tree.

TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, half-stem trees, fruit trees

USE

Location: street, park, central reservation, roof garden, large garden, cemetery, traffic areas, industrial zones, countryside, ecological zone | **Pavement:** none | **Planting concepts:** food forest, Eco planting, urban planting

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: egg-shaped | **Crown structure:** open | **Height:** 12 - 16 m | **Width:** 4 - 6 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 4A - 8B

ASPECTS

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

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: panicle, striking, flower-scented | **Flower colour:** cream-white | **Flowering period:** May - May | **Leaf colour:** matt green | **Leaves:** deciduous, ovoid, big, leathery, underside hairy, dentate, pinnate | **Autumn colour:** yellow-orange, orange-red | **Fruits:** striking, edible, large, berry | **Fruit colour:** wine red | **Bark colour:** grey | **Bark:** peeling, smooth | **Twig colour:** red-brown | **Twigs:** bare, vertical branches, pendulous, thickly branched | **Root system:** deep, extensive, highly branched

