

xSycoparrotia semidecidua 'Prins Claus'

sycoparrotia 'Prins Claus'



xSycoparrotia semidecidua 'Prins Claus' (sycoparrotia 'Prins Claus') is a selected intergeneric hybrid between *Sycopsis sinensis* and *Parrotia persica*. This tree was developed by Professor Henry Gerhold at Pennsylvania State University, United States, and introduced and named in the Netherlands by nurseryman P.L.M. van der Bom. This selection remains narrower, grows more slowly, and retains its leaves longer into winter than the standard *xSycoparrotia semidecidua*. As a young tree, 'Prins Claus' has a pyramidal growth habit; with age it develops into a dense, broadly ovoid crown reaching about eight meters in height and two to four meters in width.

'Prins Claus' is semi-evergreen. The leaves are shed only in late February, just before new foliage emerges in March. When the tree is briefly bare, red Hamamelis-like flowers appear. On closer inspection these consist of small clusters of red stamens with yellow pollen, enclosed by brown perianth segments. Fresh foliage follows in bright green tones, turning glossy dark green with a leathery texture during summer. In autumn, the leaves change color from green-yellow to deep yellow and orange. The bark of *xSycoparrotia semidecidua* 'Prins Claus' is light gray and smooth, while the branches are darker gray.

From an ornamental perspective, this selection is a striking addition to urban landscapes. In terms of health and vigor, it is an exceptionally strong tree. *xSycoparrotia semidecidua* 'Prins Claus' prefers a moist but well-drained soil ranging from neutral to acidic. Pavement and air pollution pose no problems, and its modest size and growth rate make it an excellent, disease-free street tree. Because it is semi-evergreen, it also provides attractive year-round screening in gardens. When young, proper formative pruning is necessary to establish a good tree shape. However, due to its compact cell structure, trunks with a circumference of sixteen to eighteen centimeters are already extremely sturdy and difficult to break.

TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees

USE

Location: street, square, car park / parking lot, park, central reservation, in containers, large garden, small garden, cemetery, traffic areas, industrial zones | **Pavement:** none, open, sealed

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: narrow egg-shaped, narrow pyramidal | **Crown structure:** dense | **Height:** 5 - 8 m | **Width:** 2 - 4 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 7A - 9A

ASPECTS

Wind: slightly tolerant to wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, peaty, light clay, sand, loamy soil | **Nutrient level:** moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** dry, moist | **Light requirements:** sun, partial shade | **pH range:** acidic, neutral | **Extreme environments:** tolerant to dryness, tolerates air pollution

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: raceme, striking, pendulous, small, flower-scented | **Flower colour:** red-brown | **Flowering period:** February - March | **Leaf colour:** dark green, buds bright green | **Leaves:** semi-evergreen, ovate, ovoid, thick, leathery, polished, undulate | **Autumn colour:** dark yellow, yellow-orange, yellow-green | **Fruits:** discrete, few fruits, capsule | **Fruit colour:** brown | **Bark colour:** grey | **Bark:** smooth | **Twig colour:** dark grey | **Twigs:** bare, finely branched | **Root system:** shallow

