

Zelkova serrata 'Flekova'
Flekova Japanese Zelkova



Zelkova serrata 'Flekova' (synonym *Zelkova serrata* 'GREEN VASE') was selected in 1983 and introduced by Princeton Nurseries of New Jersey, USA. The selection is narrower and considerably taller than the other selections of *Zelkova serrata*, in its juvenile state grows twice as fast as 'Village Green' and retains a slightly narrower shape thanks to the erect branching. However, as the tree matures it can actually get between ten and twelve metres wide, and up to fifteen to twenty metres tall. Siting in narrower spaces - despite the low branching crown - is often not a problem given that the top is the widest part.

The large, bright green summer foliage of *Zelkova serrata* 'Flekova' takes on magnificent autumn hues, ranging from golden yellow to vivid orange.
The leaf is similar to that of the species: egg-shaped to ovate, with a pointed top and toothed leaf edge. The juvenile grey bark covered in lenticels is smooth and peels off in flat platelets in maturity, revealing a lovely, orange brown under bark in the process.

Because of its great resemblance to an elm, albeit with a more compact habit, *Zelkova serrata* 'Flekova' makes the ideal substitute. Its narrow vase-shaped appearance means it is much more suited to planting along broad streets and avenues for example than the species which is often too wide. Cultivar 'Flekova' also makes an excellent choice for large gardens, parks and on squares. The healthy tree is appreciated for its excellent hardiness and resistance to Dutch elm disease and it also tolerates urban air, wind, coastal wind and paved areas very well. The selection tolerates a wide range of soils but prefers nutrient-rich, moist and chalky soils. Prune *Zelkova serrata* 'Flekova' whilst still young in order to thin out any overcrowded branches to allow them sufficient space as they mature.

TYPES OF PLANTING
Tree types: standard trees, multi-stemmed trees, shade trees | **Topiary on stem**: candelabra, vase

USE
Location: street, avenue, square, car park / parking lot, park, central reservation, in containers, roof garden, large garden, cemetery, traffic areas, industrial zones, coastal area | **Pavement**: none, open, sealed | **Planting concepts**: urban planting

CHARACTERISTICS
Crown shape: vase-shaped, narrow vase-shaped | **Crown structure**: semi-open | **Height**: 15 - 20 m | **Width**: 10 - 12 m | **Winter hardiness zone**: 5A - 8B

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

PLANTKENMERKEN
Flowers: heads, discrete | **Flower colour**: green | **Flowering period**: April - April | **Leaf colour**: bright green | **Leaves**: deciduous, ovate, lanceolate, serrate, dentate | **Autumn colour**: golden yellow, yellow-orange, orange, orange-red | **Fruits**: discrete, drupe | **Fruit colour**: brown | **Bark colour**: orange, grey | **Bark**: peeling, smooth, later on rough | **Twig colour**: brown | **Twigs**: with lenticels, vertical branches, finely branched, long shoots | **Root system**: deep, extensive, tap root

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