

Zelkova serrata 'Ogon'

Golden Japanese Zelkova, Bright Park Japanese Zelkova



Zelkova serrata 'Ogon' (synonym *Zelkova serrata* BRIGHT PARK) is a lovely recent cultivar of Zelkova. Although its origins are unknown, the tree is likely to come from Japan. In its juvenile state, this selection is narrow vase-shaped but in maturity it can take on a wider, splaying vase-shaped form. It remains a smaller cultivar however and tends to form a large multi-stem or small standard approximately six to eight metres tall at four to six metres wide.

Ogon means gold in Japanese and an explicit reference to why this cultivar was selected: its wonderfully yellow coloured leaf. The foliage emerges orange yellow to yellow in the spring and in summer it stays yellow green to fresh green. The juvenile foliage is also yellow once more in summer which creates a lovely glowing effect. In the autumn, the foliage reverts to golden yellow and in the right light is bathed in an orange glow. The fine-toothed, ovoid to egg-shaped leaf forms a lovely combination with the orange twigs and older orange to orange grey branches which are particularly striking in winter. The trunks of older specimens take on an orange brown hue.

Zelkova serrata 'Ogon' is not the most striking golden foliage tree but against other dark green trees it illuminates the space and this makes it a particularly good addition to the range. Although the selection requires a light position, the foliage may burn when planted in full sun in hot sites. This is however rare. *Zelkova serrata* 'Ogon' makes a great choice for park-like settings and gardens although this selection - on account of its slow growth - can also be used in smaller gardens.

TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, half-stem trees, multi-stemmed trees, characteristic trees | **Topiary on stem:** multi-stem umbrella

USE

Location: street, park, central reservation, in containers, large garden, small garden, cemetery | **Pavement:** none, open

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: narrow vase-shaped | **Crown structure:** semi-open | **Height:** 6 - 8 m | **Width:** 4 - 6 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 6A - 9B

ASPECTS

Wind: tolerant to wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, 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 | **Extreme environments:** tolerant to dryness, tolerates air pollution

PLANTKENMERKEN

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