

# Aesculus x carnea 'Briotii'

## Ruby Red Horsechestnut



*Aesculus x carnea 'Briotii'* (red horse chestnut 'Briotii') is a deciduous tree in the *Sapindaceae* family. It is a cross between *Aesculus hippocastanum* and *Aesculus pavia*. The cultivar 'Briotii' was selected in 1858 in Trianon, France. *Aesculus x carnea 'Briotii'* shares the crown shape and foliage of *Aesculus hippocastanum* and the coloured blooms of *Aesculus pavia*. Red horse chestnut 'Briotii' can grow between 10 and 15 metres tall and has a dense leaf canopy with a round crown shape 10 to 15 metres wide. The cultivar 'Briotii' has a more oval shape, thus making it ideal as an avenue tree.

*Aesculus x carnea 'Briotii'* is known for the stunning bright red flowers which appear in large panicles in late spring. The abundant 'candles' are large and striking with great ornamental value in gardens and parks. Not least because red is a little-seen colour in nature. The flowers appear at a time when lots of species of bees emerge. A striking feature of horse chestnuts are the extremely large winter buds containing folded leaves and the flower is already present in the bud. It has large palmate compound leaves. They are made up of five to seven leaflets with a glossy, dark green colour. In autumn the tree produces a few small, spiny fruits containing one or two seeds. The fruit is not edible but is a food source for many animals. The bark on juvenile plants is smooth but peels off in maturity.

Red horse chestnut 'Briotii' is prized for its numerous blooms and much used in parks, large gardens and avenues thanks to its monumental size. The heavy crown casts a lot of shade which makes it a relaxing place to linger beneath on hot summer days. All soil types are suitable for *Aesculus x carnea 'Briotii'* provided it does not dry out too much. It does not tolerate paved surroundings and wind very well.

### SEASONAL COLOURS



### TYPES OF PLANTING

**Tree types:** standard trees, multi-stemmed trees, shade trees | **Topiary on stem:** roof-trained, candelabra, branched candlestick

### USE

**Location:** avenue, park, central reservation, large garden, cemetery, traffic areas, industrial zones | **Pavement:** none, open | **Planting concepts:** Eco planting

### CHARACTERISTICS

**Crown shape:** rounded, wide oval | **Crown structure:** dense | **Height:** 10 - 15 m | **Width:** 10 - 15 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 6A - 8B

### ASPECTS

**Wind:** slightly tolerant to wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, peaty, heavy clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil, all soils | **Nutrient level:** moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** dry, moist | **Light requirements:** sun, partial shade | **pH range:** acidic, neutral, alkaline | **Host plant/forage plant:** bees, butterflies, birds, small mammals, nectar value 5, pollen value 5

### PLANTKENMERKEN

**Flowers:** panicle, striking, standing, big, scented | **Flower colour:** dark red | **Flowering period:** May - May | **Leaf colour:** dark green, buds bright green | **Leaves:** deciduous, palmate, big, opposite, matt polished, composite, wrinkled | **Autumn colour:** yellow-brown | **Fruits:** few fruits, capsule, husk | **Fruit colour:** green | **Bark colour:** grey-brown | **Bark:** peeling, slightly furrowed | **Twig colour:** grey-brown | **Twigs:** bare, thickly branched, short shoots | **Root system:** deep, highly branched, many hair roots, central root