

Celtis occidentalis

Common hackberry, American hackberry



Celtis occidentalis (Common hackberry, American hackberry) is native to the Midwestern United States. There, the tree mainly grows in forests on the edges of rivers, along with trees including the *Carya illinoensis* and *Liquidambar styraciflua*. But you will also find the common hackberry on rocky mountain slopes. In moist and nutrient-rich soils, the strong grower can reach heights of up to 30 metres. In cultivation, it is usually limited to around 18 metres in height. The tree has a wide rounded, dense crown and decorative bark with cork and elegant hanging twigs. *Celtis occidentalis* is a beautiful, whimsical shadow tree for urban areas.

The common hackberry blooms discrete, white-green flowers in late April, early May. The ovoid, serrate, rough leaves bud green and have a slightly matte underside, and turn light yellow in autumn. At the end of September, small, edible stonefruits appear that go from red-violet to almost black later on, which will stay on the tree until deep into winter. *Celtis occidentalis* is an ecologically valuable species, as it is a host plant for bees, butterflies, birds and small mammals.

The hackberry can handle heat, drought and strong (coastal) winds very well. But it can also handle pavement, air pollution and salt spray. *Celtis occidentalis* is a suitable avenue or park tree and it looks particularly beautiful in car parks, industrial locations and along roads. *Celtis occidentalis* can be used in all types of soil: from nutrient-poor to wet or dry and from acidic to slightly alkaline. For the best growth, position the common hackberry in the sun or partial shade.

SEASONAL COLOURS



TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, multi-stemmed trees, climate trees, characteristic trees | **Topiary on stem:** vase

USE

Location: street, avenue, square, car park / parking lot, park, central reservation, in containers, roof garden, large garden, cemetery, traffic areas, industrial zones, ecological zone | **Pavement:** none, open, sealed | **Planting concepts:** Climate planting, Eco planting, Solid planting, Prairie planting

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: rounded | **Crown structure:** dense | **Height:** 12 - 18 m | **Width:** 10 - 15 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 4A - 9B

ASPECTS

Wind: tolerant to wind, tolerant to coastal wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, peaty, heavy clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil, all soils | **Nutrient level:** low in nutrients, moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** dry, moist, wet | **Light requirements:** sun, partial shade | **pH range:** acidic, neutral, alkaline | **Host plant/forage plant:** bees, butterflies, birds, small mammals | **Extreme environments:** tolerant to salt spray, tolerant to dryness, tolerates air pollution, tolerates heat

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: star-shaped, discrete, singular | **Flower colour:** white-green | **Flowering period:** April - May | **Leaf colour:** green | **Leaves:** deciduous, ovate, polished, rough, serrate | **Autumn colour:** yellow | **Fruits:** edible, small, drupe | **Fruit colour:** red-violet, violet, black | **Bark colour:** grey | **Bark:** deeply furrowed, corky | **Twig colour:** brown-green | **Twigs:** with lenticels, pendulous | **Root system:** deep, extensive, highly branched, coarse roots