

# *Celtis* 'Magnifica'

## 'Magnifica' Hackberry



*Celtis* 'Magnifica' ('Magnifica' Hackberry, synonym: *Celtis occidentalis* 'Magnifica') is a cross between *Celtis occidentalis* and *Celtis laevigata* and was discovered by Princeton Nurseries in New Jersey in 1983. The selection grows faster than both of its parents, suffers less from plagues and disease (particularly witch's brooms and leaf gall), but due to its origins from the *Celtis laevigata*, it is less winter-hardy, and only reaches up to winterhardiness zone 5A. The crown is wide, egg-shaped and dense, takes on a vase shape at an older age due to its outermost branches that form beautiful arches, and is similar to the crown of the *Ulmus americana*. The 'Magnifica' Hackberry grows up to 15 metres high and 12 metres wide.

Its decorative bark with cork and beautiful hanging twigs stand out, even in young specimens of *Celtis* 'Magnifica'. The tree blooms discrete, white-green flowers in late April, early May. The egg-shaped, serrate, rough leaves are a bright green with a slightly matte underside, and turn a warm 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. However, *Celtis* 'Magnifica' bears far fewer of these than its parents, which can be seen as a major advantage when planting the species in public spaces.

Like its parents, the 'Magnifica' Hackberry can handle heat, drought and strong (coastal) winds very well. But it can also handle pavement, air pollution, salt spray and compaction, making the selection very well suited to use in challenging locations, such as streets and avenues, car parks, industrial areas and along roads. But of course, the tree also grows very well in parks and gardens. The 'Magnifica' Hackberry is perfect for the urban climate, and grows best in environments with sun to partial shade. *Celtis* 'Magnifica' can be used in all types of soil: from nutrient-poor to wet or dry and from acidic to alkaline.

### TYPES OF PLANTING

**Tree types:** standard trees, shade trees

### 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:** wide oval, vase-shaped | **Crown structure:** dense | **Height:** 10 - 15 m | **Width:** 10 - 12 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 5A - 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, shade | **pH range:** acidic, neutral, alkaline (4.5 - 8.2) | **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:** bright green | **Leaves:** deciduous, ovate, polished, rough, serrate | **Autumn colour:** yellow, yellow-brown, brown | **Fruits:** discrete, edible, small, drupe | **Fruit colour:** violet, black-violet, black | **Bark colour:** grey | **Bark:** deeply furrowed, corky | **Twig colour:** brown-green | **Twigs:** with lenticels, pendulous, long shoots | **Root system:** deep, extensive, highly branched, coarse roots

