

# *Celtis sinensis*

## Chinese Hackberry, Japanese Hackberry



*Celtis sinensis* (Chinese Hackberry, Japanese Hackberry) naturally occurs in China, Taiwan, Japan and Korea and was first introduced in Europe in 1892. The Chinese Hackberry can grow up to 15 - 20 meters tall and 10 - 15 meters wide. The species has very long annual twigs that grow off the branches and that move gently in the wind. With the hanging twigs, the characteristic vase-shaped, semi-open crown takes on a round shape at a mature age.

The Chinese hackberry blooms discrete, green flowers in late April, early May. The subsequent round stonefruits are edible and hang from the twigs in racemes like beads, that go from orange-yellow to orange-red to violet-black. The leaves that bud green are elongated and ovoid, thick and rough, and paper-like. *Celtis sinensis* has lovely, deep warm yellow autumn colours.

The Chinese hackberry feels at home in streets, avenues and on squares, though it is somewhat sensitive to salt spray and cold, wet locations. In parks and public gardens, the species is a beautiful solitary tree with its characteristic crown structure. It's a real city tree, that can tolerate air pollution and periods of drought and thrives more in a warmer environment. With its deep root system, the tree is firmly anchored and perfect for use in pavement. *Celtis sinensis* thrives in all types of soil, with the exception of heavy clay. Its similar appearance to the elm makes the Chinese Hackberry a good replacement for locations where elms got sick and did not make it. *Celtis sinensis* is not susceptible to diseases or pests.

### TYPES OF PLANTING

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

### USE

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

### CHARACTERISTICS

**Crown shape:** rounded, vase-shaped | **Crown structure:** semi-open | **Height:** 18 - 20 m | **Width:** 10 - 15 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 7A - 9B

### ASPECTS

**Wind:** slightly 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, alkaline (5.1 - 7.8) | **Extreme environments:** tolerant to dryness, tolerates air pollution

### PLANTKENMERKEN

**Flowers:** discrete | **Flower colour:** green | **Flowering period:** April - May | **Leaf colour:** green | **Leaves:** deciduous, ovate, leathery, polished, serrate, dentate | **Autumn colour:** yellow | **Fruits:** edible, small, raceme, drupe | **Fruit colour:** yellow-orange, orange-red | **Bark colour:** grey | **Bark:** smooth | **Twig colour:** red-brown | **Twigs:** hairy, bare, pendulous | **Root system:** deep

