

# Parrotia persica

## Persian ironwood, Ironwood



*Parrotia persica* (Persian ironwood) was discovered in the first half of the nineteenth century by the German botanist F.W. Parrot in Persia. It is a unique member of the witch hazel family, with the same early blossom in the winter and spectacular autumn colouring. The characteristic tree has a flattened round, dense crown and can reach a height of up to 10 metres with a width of 10 to 12 metres. The species is known for the numerous possibilities when it comes to topiary, from espaliers to hedges and even special bonsai forms.

*Parrotia persica* blossoms early, in February, with small, red flowers. The heart-shaped leaves follow in the spring and are bronze-violet when they emerge, turning glossy green in the summer. The autumn colour is spectacular with yellow, orange, red and violet tints. Once the leaves have fallen, a decorative tree remains, with whimsical branches and an attractive bark, which peels off in pieces as the tree ages, creating a beautiful camouflage pattern in green, grey, brown-pink and yellow.

The Persian ironwood tolerates drought and heat and has a winter hardiness of 5A. This makes the species an excellent, future-proof climate tree. Urban conditions such as wind, road salt and air pollution are tolerated well. *Parrotia persica* thrives in parks and (roof) gardens, but also in containers and at industrial locations. Plant the tree in a damp, nutrient-rich soil, with a neutral to acidic pH value and ideally in a sunny position for the best autumn colouring.

### SEASONAL COLOURS



### TYPES OF PLANTING

**Tree types:** standard trees, half-stem trees, feathered trees, multi-stemmed trees, climate trees, shade trees, characteristic trees, solitary shrubs | **Topiary on stem:** beehive, block, cylinder, pyramid, cone, roof-trained, vase, multi-stem umbrella, espalier, pleached | **Topiary:** beehive, cylinder, column, hedge, hedge element, espalier, pleached, bonsai

### USE

**Location:** park, central reservation, in containers, roof garden, large garden, cemetery, traffic areas, industrial zones | **Pavement:** none, open, sealed | **Planting concepts:** Climate planting, Solid planting, Prairie planting

### CHARACTERISTICS

**Crown shape:** flattened spherical | **Crown structure:** dense | **Height:** 6 - 10 m | **Width:** 10 - 12 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 5A - 8B

### ASPECTS

**Wind:** 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 | **Extreme environments:** tolerant to salt spray, tolerant to dryness, tolerates air pollution, tolerates heat

### PLANTKENMERKEN

**Flowers:** heads, discrete, singular, small | **Flower colour:** red | **Flowering period:** February - March | **Leaf colour:** green | **Leaves:** deciduous, obovate, leathery, polished, undulate | **Autumn colour:** yellow-orange, orange-red, red, red-violet, violet | **Fruits:** discrete, capsule | **Fruit colour:** brown | **Bark colour:** yellow-green, grey | **Bark:** peeling | **Twig colour:** olive green | **Twigs:** bare | **Root system:** shallow, slightly branched