Populus lasiocarpa
Chinese necklace poplar

Populus lasiocarpa (Chinese necklace poplar) was discovered by the English/Irish dendrologist Augustine Henry in Central China in 1888, and was introduced by the plant collector Ernest Wilson two years later. This beautiful poplar, which stays small, reaches heights of 14 metres and widths of 12 metres in cultivation and grows quite a bit more slowly than its fellow species. The tree naturally grows a short trunk with a wide egg-shaped and open crown.

The species belongs to the broadleaf poplars, with leaves of up to 35 by 15 centimetres. It is bright green with a striking, prominent red grain and petioles. The budding leaves also have a red hue. They turn golden yellow in autumn. Young twigs are yellow-brown, velvety hairy and angular, and the bark is a gorgeous peeling grey. *Populus lasiocarpa* is one of the few poplars with male and female catkins on one tree. The species name *lasiocarpa* means 'with woolly fruits', which beautifully describes the white, cotton-like seeds.

The Chinese necklace poplar is a forest tree and therefore, it should be planted in a sheltered area. It is a lovely asset to parks, central reservations or larger gardens. The species prefers soil that is moist and not too rich, though it will also tolerate wetter soil. *Populus lasiocarpa* is very difficult to multiply by striking, and is therefore mainly grafted on *Populus nigra* 'Italica'. *Populus* x *jackii* is seen as a better rootstock.

TYPES OF PLANTING
Tree types: standard trees, multi-stemmed trees, characteristic trees, solitary shrubs | **Topiary on stem**: multi-stem umbrella

USE
Location: park, large garden | **Pavement**: none

CHARACTERISTICS
Crown shape: rounded, wide egg-shaped | **Crown structure**: open | **Height**: 10 - 15 m | **Width**: 10 - 15 m | **Winter hardiness zone**: 6A - 9B

ASPECTS
Wind: intolerant to wind | **Soil**: loess, sabulous clay, peaty, light clay, sand, loamy soil | **Nutrient level**: rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level**: moist, wet | **Light requirements**: sun | **pH range**: acidic, neutral, alkaline (6.2 - 7.8)

PLANTKENMERKEN
Flowers: catkins, striking, big | **Flower colour**: green | **Flowering period**: March - April | **Leaf colour**: buds red-violet, bright green | **Leaves**: deciduous, ovate, cordate, big, serrate | **Autumn colour**: golden yellow | **Fruits**: discrete, capsule | **Fruit colour**: green | **Bark colour**: grey | **Bark**: peeling | **Twig colour**: yellow-brown | **Twigs**: hairy, bare, thickly branched | **Root system**: shallow, extensive