

# x *Sycoparrotia semidecidua*

## Sycoparrotia



x *Sycoparrotia semidecidua* (Sycoparrotia) was developed in Basel, Switzerland in the 1950s, and was created by crossing *Sycopsis sinensis* and *Parrotia persica*. It is a so-called hybrid: the name *Sycoparrotia* is a contraction of both parents' generic names. The name of the species, *semidecidua*, literally means semi-deciduous and refers to the tree's semi-evergreen quality. The species keeps a large amount of its leaves all winter long and does not shed them until late February, early March. x *Sycoparrotia semidecidua* is a slow-growing tree, and forms more of a large shrub than a real tree. With pruning, the sycoparrotia can eventually reach a maximum of 8 metres in height and 5 metres in width.

The leaves of the x *Sycoparrotia semidecidua* are elongated, glossy, thick and green and look somewhat similar to those of a Ficus. From October to January, some of its leaves turn a variety of yellow-orange, red and violet. After the leaves have fallen at the end of winter, the tree blooms right on its bare branches. The flowers start out red-brown, and then turn yellow because of the long yellow stamens. After blooming, the glossy leaves bud green again, and with that, the tree has a beautiful, dense crown year-round - with the exception of a brief period in early spring.

x *Sycoparrotia semidecidua* is not picky about its environment, as long as the tree has enough water and is planted in a sheltered area in very permeable soil. Stagnant water is not at all tolerated. The species can be used in pavement, but will stay small and - with its small crowning height - it is less suitable for wide roads and squares. It is a unique tree for residential streets, (patio) gardens, parks and cemeteries. Sycoparrotia does not suffer from plagues or diseases and is very strong due to its hard wood. In harsh winters, young branches can freeze a bit, but the tree will properly recover.

### TYPES OF PLANTING

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

### USE

**Location:** street, square, car park / parking lot, park, central reservation, in containers, large garden, small garden, patio, cemetery | **Pavement:** none, open, sealed

### CHARACTERISTICS

**Crown shape:** wide egg-shaped | **Crown structure:** dense | **Height:** 5 - 8 m | **Width:** 4 - 5 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 7A - 9A

### ASPECTS

**Wind:** slightly tolerant to wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, peaty, light clay, sand, loamy soil | **Nutrient level:** moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** dry, moist | **Light requirements:** sun, partial shade | **pH range:** acidic, neutral | **Host plant/forage plant:** bees | **Extreme environments:** tolerant to dryness, tolerates air pollution

### PLANTKENMERKEN

**Flowers:** heads, pendulous, singular, small, scented | **Flower colour:** yellow, red-brown | **Flowering period:** February - March | **Leaf colour:** buds bronze, dark green | **Leaves:** semi-evergreen, ovate, thick, leathery, polished, undulate | **Autumn colour:** yellow-orange, red, violet | **Fruits:** discrete, capsule | **Fruit colour:** brown | **Bark colour:** grey-brown | **Bark:** smooth, later on rough | **Twig colour:** red-brown | **Twigs:** bare, with lenticels, pendulous | **Root system:** shallow

