

Zelkova serrata 'Urban Ruby'

Urban Ruby Japanese grey-bark elm, Urban Ruby Saw-leaf Zelkova



Zelkova serrata 'Urban Ruby' (Japanese zelkova 'Urban Ruby') was selected in 1993 by nurseryman Hanno Hardijzer of Boskoop in the Netherlands for its lovely dark red to purple budding foliage.

The tree forms an erect vase-shaped crown but is not the narrowest *Zelkova* cultivar. In terms of its habit, 'Urban Ruby' greatly resembles the species and the cultivar 'Village Green' but the tips of the branches are more pendulous and this makes the tree less suited for use in street plantings. 'Urban Ruby' grows up to twelve metres tall and six metres wide.

Foliage on *Zelkova serrata* 'Urban Ruby' emerges red to red-violet in the spring and takes on a particularly beautiful dark green hue in summer. It produces a second flush of new shoots which are also a striking red/red-violet, creating an attractive contrast with the dark green leaf. The autumn colour of this cultivar is also spectacular: a wonderful array of shades of red, scarlet, red-violet and even brownish-yellow. 'Urban Ruby' produces unremarkable small, green flowers in April. These are followed by equally unremarkable small brown nuts. *Zelkova serrata* 'Urban Ruby' has cinnamon-brown to grey, peeling bark and zigzagging twigs of the same colour which are glabrous.

This cultivar performs best in a warm, sunny to partially shaded spot ideally on loamy and nutrient-rich soil, although it can also do very well on poorer and drier soils. Thanks to its deep, lateral roots the selection has a firm anchor and is very wind-resistant. Vigorous 'Urban Ruby' is suitable for a wide range of planting sites as a standard or multi-stem, and as a single specimen. From roof gardens to squares and from industrial sites to parks: this ornamental tree will thrive. *Zelkova serrata* 'Urban Ruby' is often used as a substitute for elm on account of its similar appearance and good resistance to diseases and pests.

TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, multi-stemmed trees, characteristic trees

USE

Location: avenue, square, car park / parking lot, park, central reservation, in containers, roof garden, large garden, cemetery, traffic areas, industrial zones | **Pavement:** none, open, sealed | **Planting concepts:** Prairie planting

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: wide vase-shaped | **Crown structure:** semi-open | **Height:** 10 - 12 m | **Width:** 5 - 6 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 6A - 9B

ASPECTS

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

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: discrete, small | **Flower colour:** green | **Flowering period:** April - April | **Leaf colour:** buds red-violet, buds violet, dark green | **Leaves:** deciduous, ovate, rough, dentate | **Autumn colour:** red, scarlet, red-violet | **Fruits:** discrete, small, nut | **Fruit colour:** brown | **Bark colour:** cinnamon-brown, grey | **Bark:** peeling | **Twig colour:** cinnamon-brown | **Twigs:** bare, zigzagging | **Root system:** deep, extensive, tap root

