**INTRODUCTION**

This male cultivar of Ginkgo is practically pest-free, resistant to storm damage, and casts light shade due to the narrow crown (Fig. 1). It has a dense, fat columnar form growing to about 65 feet tall with a 15 to 20-foot-wide crown. It makes a durable street tree where there is limited vertical overhead space. Other narrow upright cultivars include ‘Fairmont’ and ‘Fastigiata’. Ginkgo tolerates most soil, including compacted, and alkaline. The tree is easily transplanted and has a vivid yellow fall color which is second to none in brilliance, even in the south. However, leaves fall quickly and the fall color show is short.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Scientific name:** Ginkgo biloba ‘Princeton Sentry’  
**Pronunciation:** GINK-gobye-LOE-buh  
**Common name(s):** ‘Princeton Sentry’ Maidenhair Tree, ‘Princeton Sentry’ Ginkgo  
**Family:** Ginkgoaceae  
**USDA hardiness zones:** 3B through 8A (Fig. 2)  
**Origin:** not native to North America  
**Uses:** Bonsai; wide tree lawns (>6 feet wide); medium-sized tree lawns (4-6 feet wide); recommended for buffer strips around parking lots or for median strip plantings in the highway; sidewalk cutout (tree pit); residential street tree; tree has been successfully grown in urban areas where air pollution, poor drainage, compacted soil, and/or drought are common  
**Availability:** somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the tree
DESCRIPTION

Height: 50 to 65 feet
Spread: 15 to 20 feet
Crown uniformity: symmetrical canopy with a regular (or smooth) outline, and individuals have more or less identical crown forms
Crown shape: columnar; upright
Crown density: dense
Growth rate: fast
Texture: medium

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: alternate (Fig. 3)
Leaf type: simple
Leaf margin: lobed
Leaf shape: fan-shaped
Leaf venation: parallel; palmate
Leaf type and persistence: deciduous
Leaf blade length: 2 to 4 inches
Leaf color: green
Fall color: yellow
Fall characteristic: showy

Flower

Flower color: green
Flower characteristics: pleasant fragrance; inconspicuous and not showy; spring flowering

Fruit

There is no fruit on this tree.

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: grow mostly upright and will not droop; showy trunk; should be grown with a single leader; no thorns
Pruning requirement: needs little pruning to develop a strong structure
Breakage: resistant
Current year twig color: brown; gray
Current year twig thickness: medium; thick

Culture

Light requirement: tree grows in part shade/part sun; tree grows in full sun
Soil tolerances: clay; loam; sand; acidic; occasionally wet; alkaline; well-drained
Drought tolerance: high
Aerosol salt tolerance: moderate
Soil salt tolerance: poor

Other

Roots: surface roots are usually not a problem
Winter interest: tree has winter interest due to unusual form, nice persistent fruits, showy winter trunk, or winter flowers
Outstanding tree: tree has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more
Invasive potential: little, if any, potential at this time
Verticillium wilt susceptibility: not known to be susceptible
Pest resistance: no pests are normally seen on the tree

USE AND MANAGEMENT

Ginkgo may grow extremely slow for several years after planting, but will then pick up and grow at a moderate rate, particularly if it receives an adequate supply of water and some fertilizer. But do not overwater or plant in a poorly-drained area. Very tolerant of urban soils and pollution, Ginkgo could be
used more in USDA hardiness zone 7 but is not recommended in central and southern Texas or Oklahoma due to summer heat. Adapted for use as a street tree, even in confined soil spaces. Some early pruning to form one central leader and to eliminate vigorous upright branches is helpful.

There are several other cultivars: ‘Autumn Gold’ - male, fruitless, bright gold fall color and rapid growth rate; ‘Fairmont’ - upright, oval to pyramidal form; ‘Fastigiata’ - male, fruitless, upright growth; ‘Laciniata’ - leaf margins deeply divided; ‘Lakeview’ - male, fruitless, compact broad conical form; ‘Mayfield’ - male, upright fastigiate (columnar) growth; ‘Pendula’ - pendent branches; ‘Santa Cruz’ - umbrella-shaped, ‘Variegata’ - variegated leaves.

Propagation is by seed or grafting males.

**Pests and Diseases**

This tree is pest-free and considered resistant to gypsy moth.