



Phellodendron amurense Amur Corktree¹

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INTRODUCTION

Growing 30 to 40 feet tall with an equal or much greater spread, Amur Corktree has a short trunk and an open, rounded, spreading canopy which makes it ideal as a durable shade tree (Fig. 1). Male clones can be used for street and parking lot planting because they produce no fruit. The deciduous, dark green, pinnately compound leaflets change to bronze and yellow in the fall before dropping. The insignificant yellow/green flowers appear in late May to early June on 2 to 3.5-inch-long panicles, and are followed by small black drupes which sometimes persist into winter, if not first devoured by birds. These black fruits give off a strong odor when crushed and create a mess on a sidewalk and some people may find it more desirable to only plant male trees ('Macho') which will not produce this fruit. The species can naturalize as seeds readily germinate in the landscape.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Scientific name: *Phellodendron amurense*
Pronunciation: fell-oh-DEN-drawn am-moor-EN-see
Common name(s): Amur Corktree, Chinese Corktree
Family: *Rutaceae*
USDA hardiness zones: 3B through 8 (Fig. 2)
Origin: not native to North America
Uses: recommended for buffer strips around parking lots or for median strip plantings in the highway; shade tree; specimen; residential street tree; tree has been successfully grown in urban areas where air pollution, poor drainage, compacted soil, and/or drought are common

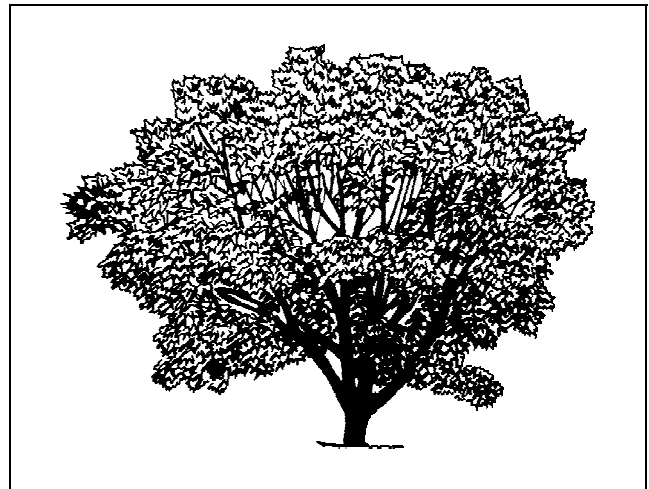


Figure 1. Middle-aged Amur Corktree.

Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the tree

DESCRIPTION

Height: 30 to 40 feet
Spread: 40 to 60 feet
Crown uniformity: irregular outline or silhouette
Crown shape: round; spreading; vase shape
Crown density: open
Growth rate: medium
Texture: medium

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: opposite/subopposite (Fig. 3)
Leaf type: odd pinnately compound
Leaflet margin: entire; undulate

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Leaflet shape: elliptic (oval); ovate
Leaflet venation: pinnate; reticulate
Leaf type and persistence: deciduous
Leaflet blade length: 2 to 4 inches
Leaf color: green
Fall color: copper; yellow
Fall characteristic: showy

Flower

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

Fruit

Fruit shape: oval
Fruit length: .5 to 1 inch; < .5 inch
Fruit covering: fleshy
Fruit color: black; green
Fruit characteristics: attracts birds; attracts squirrels and other mammals; fruit, twigs, or foliage cause significant litter; persistent on the tree; showy

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: droop as the tree grows, and will require pruning for vehicular or pedestrian clearance beneath the canopy; routinely grown with, or trainable to be grown with, multiple trunks; showy trunk; tree wants to grow with several trunks but can be trained to grow with a single trunk; no thorns
Pruning requirement: requires pruning to develop strong structure
Breakage: resistant
Current year twig color: brown; gray
Current year twig thickness: thick

Culture

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

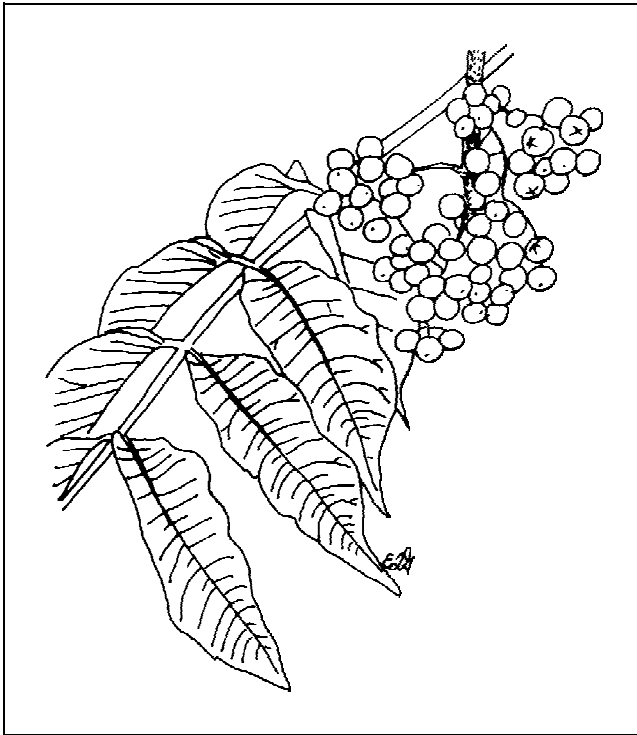


Figure 3. Foliage of Amur Corktree.

Other

Roots: surface roots can lift sidewalks or interfere with mowing

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: No entries found.

Verticillium wilt susceptibility: susceptible

Pest resistance: no pests are normally seen on the tree

USE AND MANAGEMENT

The attractive grey/brown bark is deeply ridged and furrowed, and on mature trees it takes on a corky texture. Branches are usually borne low on the trunk, droop and grow horizontally forming a spreading habit. The shallow root system needs plenty of room to expand in order to establish the tree properly.

The fruitless (male) cultivar 'Macho' has thick, leathery leaves and a more pleasing, upright-spreading growth form. 'Macho' should be planted instead of the species due to its less spreading and less drooping habit which makes it more suited for street tree planting. Pruning usually is not required once good branch structure is established early in the life of the

tree. Allow for adequate soil space for root development so they do not lift sidewalks and pavement. 'Shademaster' is also fruitless and available in the trade.

Amur Corktree grows rapidly and prefers to be grown in full sun on deep, rich soil but will tolerate any soil, acid or alkaline. It tolerates wet soil and drought. Once highly recommended as a street and urban-tolerant tree, it does not appear to hold up to the rigors of city life under certain conditions, particularly restricted soil spaces (although the experts appear to disagree as to the tolerance of this tree to city life - the tree may be more sensitive to soil conditions than is commonly realized).

Propagation is by seed, which germinate readily.

Pests and Diseases

This tree is virtually pest-free.