

Amur Corktree

Phellodendron amurense

Growing 30-40 feet tall with an equal or greater spread, Amur Corktree has a short trunk and an open, rounded, spreading canopy which makes for a wonderful landscape shade tree. The compound leaves change from green to a coppery yellow in autumn. Amur Corktree is adaptable to a wide range of soil regimes, including those that are somewhat compacted or have poor drainage. Bearing copious seeds hanging in grape-like clusters that propagate easily, Amur Corktree is considered invasive in some areas such as NYC where it has become a dominant tree in parks. Dense stands can become established in forests, crowding out native species. Populations of acorn dependent mammal species have been impacted.



Identification

Leaves

Deciduous, oddly pinnately compound, 10-15" long, oppositely arranged, oval leaflets 2-4" long. Green to coppery yellow in autumn.



Bark/Wood

Corklike gray-tan bark, deeply ridged and furrowed. The bark has corky ridges that give an elastic sensation when touched.



Flower/Fruit

Dioecious; inconspicuous green or white flowers in spring maturing into grape-like clusters of black, fleshy, 1/2-1" fruits that are persistent on the tree.



Form

Broadly forming tree with lower branching drooping as the tree grows. Pruning required to maintain single trunk.



Uses

Landscape specimen and shade tree. Attracts wildlife. No commercial value. Despite the name, Amur Corktree is not the source of cork (that would be cork oak, *Quercus suber*).

Ethnobotany

Source of herbs for a number of Chinese remedies. The leaves produce an aromatic oil.

Native Distribution

China.

Establishment

Shallow root system requires plenty of room to expand.

Growing Conditions and Culture

Mature Size 40'Hx40'Wx4'dbh
 USDA Zone 3-8
 Light Requirements Part to Full Sun

Soils Diverse
 Drought Tolerant? Yes
 Inundation Tolerant? Moderate

Pests/Damaging Agents

This tree is virtually pest free.

Similar Species

Propagation

Seed - germinates readily and easily.

Source(s)

Seed collected from Cornell Plantation, Ithaca, NY.