

# Chinese Wingnut

*Pterocarya stenoptera*

Chinese Wingnut is a medium sized deciduous tree with substantial lateral branches spreading wide as the tree is tall. It is a member of Walnut family. While the compound leaves do not display appreciable fall color, the seed clusters hanging suspended beneath the branches add autumnal visual interest. Chinese Wingnut can grow at phenomenal rates under ideal conditions and will become rather bulky with age. Specimens up to eight feet in diameter have been measured. Because of its growth rate and climate tolerance, Chinese Wingnut is being investigated as a timber tree on Orion Farms. The genus is from pteron, "wing," and karyon, "nut," in Greek.



## Identification

### Leaves

Deciduous, alternate, oddly pinnately compound, 8-12" long, 11-25 oval or oblong leaflets have serrated margins, 2-4" long. No fall color change.



### Bark/Wood

Straight of trunk, the brown-gray bark is fissured. Shoots have chambered pith as in walnuts. The wood is dense and strong, could be used for lumber.



### Flower/Fruit

Monoecious; green, inconspicuous and not showy, maturing to hanging clusters of winged 3/4" nutlets in strings.



### Form

Medium sized tree with irregular round or vase shaped outline. Crown is only moderately dense. Shallow rooted.



### Uses

Only recently introduced into the US, the usage portfolio is still minimal. It is appropriate for use in large landscapes or park settings. Tolerant of compacted soils, it may be more used in reclamation and revegetation. Use for lumber under trial.

### Ethnobotany

The first Chinese Wingnut was sent to France in 1844 by a missionary. Only since then has it been introduced more broadly.

### Native Distribution

China.

### Establishment

Prune only in winter as it is a "bleeder."

## Growing Conditions and Culture

Mature Size	70'Hx60'Wx6'dbh	Soils	Diverse
USDA Zone	6-11	Drought Tolerant?	Yes
Light Requirements	Full Sun	Inundation Tolerant?	Yes

### Pests/Damaging Agents

Virtually pest free.

### Similar Species

Caucasian Wingnut (*P. fraxinifolia*) and Japanese Wingnut (*P. rhoifolia*) are similar in appearance.

### Propagation

Seed - cold stratify. Cuttings.

### Source(s)

Seed collected from Cornell Plantation, NY.