



Cladrastis kentukea



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| Height | 8 - 10 (15) m |
| Crown | flat globular, half-open crown, capricious growing |
| Bark and branches | grey brown, smooth |
| Leaf | odd-pinnate, fresh green, overall leaf 20 - 30 cm long, feathered leaf |
| Autumn colour | yellow |
| Flowers | white in loose, pendulous panicles, late May/June, fragrant flowers |
| Fruits | flat pod, 8 - 12 cm |
| Spines/thorns | None |
| Toxicity | usually not toxic to people, (large) pets and livestock |
| Soil type | clay and sandy soils |
| Paving | tolerates no paving |
| Winter hardiness zone | 4 (-34,4 to -28,9 °C) |
| Wind resistance | good, when mature more susceptible |
| Other resistances | resistant to frost (WH 1 - 6), can withstand wind |
| Fauna tree | resistant to frost (WH 1 - 6), can withstand wind, valuable for bees (honey plant) |
| Application | parks, tree containers, cemeteries, roof gardens, large gardens |
| Shape | clearstem tree, multi-stem treem |
| Origin | south-eastern part of North America |
| Synonyms | Cladrastis lutea |

A low branching tree with a wide, round crown that is rarely seen here. Is also sometimes grown as multiple-stemmed shrub. The trunk is grey brown and smooth, when mature shallow grooves may appear. The wood is strikingly yellow, especially when freshly sawn. The large, compound leaf consists of 7 to 9 ovoid to ovate leaflets, which are each 8 - 14 cm large. The separate leaflets are not opposite on the central stalk. They turn strikingly yellow in autumn. The loose, pendulous panicles with fragrant, white flowers are circa 25 cm long. In late summer the pods appear that turn from green through brown to purplish brown. Cladrastis kentukea has a big, fleshy root system and thrives best in a sunny, warm location but its hardiness is good. Damage to the young twigs of Cladrastis kentukea reveals yellow wood. The tree forms a characteristic trunk when older.