



Melia azedarach



Height	6 - 15 m
Crown	round to flat-topped spherical, light, open crown, capricious growing
Bark and branches	dark brown to reddish brown, mature trunks grooved
Leaf	bipinnate, 25-60 cm long, leaves ovate to elliptical, 2-5 cm long, dark green, feathered leaf
Autumn colour	yellow
Flowers	light violet, approx. 2 cm, loose panicles of 20-25 cm, May
Fruits	round berry with thin fleshy skin, approx. 1.5 cm. light yellow
Spines/thorns	None
Toxicity	usually not toxic to people, (large) pets and livestock
Soil type	quite fertile, well-drained soil, tolerates drought
Soil moisture	suitable for dry soil
Paving	tolerates partial paving
Winter hardiness zone	7b (-14,9 to -12,3 °C)
Wind resistance	good, but does not tolerate cold, drying wind
Other resistances	can withstand wind
Fauna tree	can withstand wind, provides food for birds
Application	avenues and broad streets, parks, squares, cemeteries, large gardens
Shape	clearstem tree, multi-stem tree
Origin	North India, China

Medium-size to large tree with quite loose, round to flat-topped spherical crown of 6 - 12 m. The dark brown to reddish brown bark is grooved when mature. The year-old twigs are relatively thick and green to reddish. The large bipinnate leaf consists of numerous leaf segments. It is 25 to 60 cm long and half as wide. Younger trees may show leaves up to 80 cm long. In autumn it turns yellow. In May the light violet flowers open in large loose panicles. They are followed by small, round light yellow berries. This fruit is what gave the tree the English name of Bead Tree. Melia thrives on many soils, provided it is sufficiently drained, tolerates drought and prefers a warm, sunny location. The tree is wind resistant, but it is sensitive to cold, drying wind. Due to its lesser hardiness, in Northern Europe, Melia is only suitable as a park tree for sheltered sites.