

Morus

Morus, Mulberry (*Moraceae*)



alba, White mulberry

Origin: China. Deciduous tree, small or medium size with globular crown. The shape is not always regular, often the trunk is short and habit like a large arborescent shrub. Heart-shaped or ovate-lanceolate, glossy green leaves, up to 20cm long. Flowers: very delicate in May-June, grouped in pendulous spikes. White, pinkish-white or pink fruit similar to blackberries but longer, edible and very sweet. Silkworms feed on the leaves. Requires soil that is not too fertile, prefers poor soil. Used for planting in large gardens

calcareous soil and also grows well in sandy soil. and parks, in a sunny, protected position.

alba "Pendula", Weeping mulberry

Origin: Italy. Variety of *Morus alba* which is propagated by grafting. From the point of grafting the branches are initially thin, long and grow vertically downwards. After a few years they get thicker and twisty, spreading out and weeping until they touch the ground. Leaves: bright green, deciduous, from ovoidal to heart-shaped, often deeply cut, 8-14cm long and in autumn they turn yellow. Flowers, fruit and growing requirements the same as *M. alba*. One of the best trees for planting in small gardens.





**platanifolia (M. bombycis)
(M. kagayamae)**

Deciduous tree which is propagated by grafting on the trunk of *M. alba*. The branches develop from the point of grafting and in the first year reach 30-50cm. If they are pruned after the danger of frost is over, they will grow vigorously, reaching over 2m before the end of autumn, almost horizontally, to form a wide, semi-globular crown. Emerald green leaves, darker on the underside, with 3 irregular lobes, 20–25cm in length and width. Flowers in April-May in

pendulous, greenish-white catkins. Fruit: numerous fruits are formed but most of them fall when they are still green. The few that manage to ripen are red or reddish-black. Growing requirements are the same as *M. alba*. Pruning short the branches at the end of every winter is recommended. Very popular in the south of France and now also in Italy, especially in seaside holiday resorts as it tolerates saltiness.

**platanifolia "Fruitless"
(M. platani "Sterile")**

Sterile, male selection of *M. platani*. It has the same habit and, when suitably trained, is easily made into a natural, wide and shady pergola. Leaves: the same as *M. platani*, emerald green on the upper side, darker green underneath. Flowers: they appear in April- May but all fall before they turn into fruit. Growing requirements and use: the same as *M. platani*. Just as resistant to maritime climate.

