

Parrotia

Parrotia (*Hamamelidaceae*)



persica

Origin: from Persia to the Caucasus. Deciduous tree, tall and upright, usually branched from the base but also trained into a tree with clear stem and large crown formed from branches that are partly slanting and with some that spread out like the wings of a bird in flight. The trunk and older branches have a smooth grey bark which flakes off in attractive patches on adult plants. Ovate leaves, up to 12cm long, similar to beech leaves, vibrant green with mauve shades at the margins. Beautiful autumn colours from bright yellow to orange to purple.

Flowers: in spring, before the leaves, small in clusters which are formed only from crimson stamens. Fruit: similar to small nuts. Prefers cool, neutral or slightly acid soil but also tolerates other types of soil providing it is not dry and very compact because the root system is superficial and finely branched. Use: as a beautiful free standing specimen in medium sized gardens or in groups in large gardens and parks.