

*Platanus*

## Platanus, Plane (*Platanaceae*)



### **x acerifolia (*P. x hispanica*) (*P. x hybrida*)**

Origin: England. Greyish- brown bark, very thin and flaking off in large pieces to reveal very decorative white or cream patches. Leaves: deciduous, large, 20-22cm wide, palmate with 3-5 lobes, the central one being very prominent, glossy green. Sometimes the winter colour of the leaves is yellow, sometimes brownish-yellow. Flowers: in spring, not very showy, the male flowers are yellowish heads, the female ones are reddish. Fruit: round, almost always in pairs, initially green, reddish-brown when mature; they remain on the plant for a long time, hanging from the branches on long stalks. Adapts to all types of soil but prefers moist

soil, deep, siliceous. Withstands pollution, temporary periods of excessive humidity or extremes of temperature. These are the best trees for parks and are perfect for lining wide streets.

### **x acerifolia "Alphen's Globe"**

Propagated by grafting. If grafted onto a certain height (usually 2-3 m) of stem, it forms a dense, perfectly spherical crown. If low-grafted, it forms a large round shrub with lots of branches. Deciduous leaves, similar to those of acers, with 3-5 lobes, 12-15cm wide, so smaller than type. Leaves are mid-green and remain on the tree a long time without putting on autumn colours. Otherwise, same as the type. Very good for medium and small gardens.



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**orientalis**

Origin: Greece. Large, long-lived deciduous tree, with majestic habit and very broad crown. Beautiful patchy bark that flakes. Deeply pentalobate leaves with lobes almost halfway to base or more. Fruits in groups of 2-6 on long pendulous stalk. Has same acclimatisation characteristics as *Platanus acerifolia*, apart from being slightly more sensitive to hard frosts (-20°C). Is still the most common plane tree in the towns and villages of Italy and France, particularly in the south.

**orientalis "Cuneata"**

Interesting for its closer habit and smaller dimensions. Erect habit, very dense branching, tolerates all kinds of soil, except calcareous. Deeply lobed foliage, very elegant.

