Phellodendron amurense - Amur Corktree (*Rutaceae*)

Phellodendron amurense is a relatively tough, functional, low maintenance tree characterized by corky bark and interesting form. A male cultivar of the Amur Corktree is preferable in some situations as the fruit litter may be a nuisance.

FEATURES

Form

-deciduous tree
-broad spreading vase
-30-45' tall with equal spread
-open rounded crown delineated by a few large branches
-irregular when young, symmetrical at maturity
-moderate to rapid growth rate
-long-lived

Culture

-tolerates many types of soils, including compacted ones, but is not as urban tolerant as previously thought; especially with restricted root spaces
-tolerates drought
-pest- and disease-free
-relatively easily transplanted

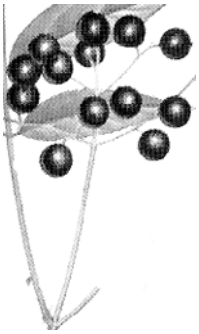
Foliage

-opposite
-odd pinnately compound
-10-15" long
-5-11 leaflets
-each leaflet ovate, becoming narrow at the tip
-entire margins
-transparently dotted (like chlorotic spots)
-autumn color is yellow

Flowers

-dioecious (male and female plants)
-in panicles
-not showy
-May to June

Fruits



-on female plants only
-black, 1/2" drupe, in clusters
-strong odor when bruised
-Oct., persistent into winter

Twigs

-stout
-light to yellow gray, becoming brown
-lenticels white, apparent

Trunk

-bark gray
-deeply fissured, ridged, becoming corklike
-showy

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Function

-shade tree for large areas, parks, golf courses
-has been used as a street tree
-need space for broad spread

Texture

-medium texture in foliage and coarse when bare
-moderate density

Assets

-good winter character (bark & form)
-pest-free
-tolerates adverse conditions except limited root space
-attracts wildlife (birds feeding on fruit)

Liabilities

-shallow root system
-fruits on female plants may be messy
-may seed itself into the landscape

Habitat

-Zones 4 to 7
-Native to China, Japan

SELECTIONS

Alternates

-other trees with showy bark (e.g. *Ulmus parvifolia*)
-vased-shaped trees (e.g. *Zelkova serrata*)

Cultivars - Variants - Related species

-*P. amurense* 'Macho' is a male (fruitless) cultivar, selected in Illinois in 1985 that should be planted instead of the straight species in any urban situation. It has more upright, uniform branching than the species and stronger growth
-*P. amurense* Shademaster'®- A vigorous male cultivar