

Toona sinensis 'Flamingo'

Chinese mahogany 'Flamingo', Chinese cedar 'Flamingo', Chinese toon 'Flamingo', beef and onion plant 'Flamingo', red

1991 Flamingo



Toona sinensis (Chinese Cedar, synonym *Cedrela sinensis*) is a beautiful deciduous tree from China. The species has been known about since 1743 but was not introduced into Europe until 1862. *Toona sinensis* reaches a height of twenty metres and develops a wide oval, semi-open crown between eight and ten metres across. In China the leaves are used in cooking; twigs and foliage have an onion smell.

During hot summers, at the end of June or in early July, the tree produces single, pendulous, scented white flower panicles. After flowering unremarkable brown capsules appear on the tree. The glossy mostly pinnate leaves are between six and ten centimetres long and wide lanceolate in shape, with a slim point. The composite pinnate leaves give the tree a tropical character. The foliage is practically glabrous, finely toothed or shallow serrated with an asymmetrical base. The foliage emerges red in the spring, changing to dark green with light green underside in the summer and bright yellow in the autumn. The Chinese Cedar has a coarse branching structure, thick twigs and rough trunk with characteristic lengthways fissures in the bark.

Toona sinensis is a trouble-free tree which can be used to great effect in parks and large gardens. The species is also ideal for food forests. Outwardly, it shares many similarities with *Ailanthus altissima* and would make a good substitute; *Ailanthus* is no longer used because of its invasive character. The tree is very hardy and the only hardy species in its genus. It does not tolerate wind. *Toona sinensis* enjoys a loamy, somewhat chalky soil with good drainage where it can develop deep roots.

TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, multi-stemmed trees | **Topiary on stem:** multi-stem umbrella

USE

Location: park, central reservation, large garden | **Pavement:** none | **Planting concepts:** food forest

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: narrow oval, wide oval | **Crown structure:** semi-open | **Height:** 10 - 15 m | **Width:** 8 - 10 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 6B - 10B

ASPECTS

Wind: slightly tolerant to wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil | **Nutrient level:** moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** dry, moist | **Light requirements:** sun, partial shade | **pH range:** acidic, neutral, alkaline | **Host plant/forage plant:** bees | **Extreme environments:** tolerates air pollution, tolerates heat

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: panicle, pendulous, singular, big, scented | **Flower colour:** white | **Flowering period:** June - July | **Leaf colour:** variegated white, yellow-green, buds pink, green | **Leaves:** deciduous, ovoid, big, polished, pinnate, composite | **Autumn colour:** yellow | **Fruits:** discrete, capsule | **Fruit colour:** brown, green | **Bark colour:** grey-brown | **Bark:** peeling, smooth, later on rough | **Twig colour:** brown, green | **Twigs:** vertical branches, thickly branched | **Root system:** deep, coarse roots,