

Platanus orientalis

COMMON NAMES

Oriental plane

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Large deciduous tree with usually peeling bark in small flakes (cf. London plane which has larger flakes), sometimes becoming thick and rugged; leaves 5-7 lobed, the lobes being narrower and deeper than in London plane; monoecious. London plane (*P.X acerifolia*) has *P. orientalis* as one parent and has leaves less deeply lobed than in *P. orientalis*, and 5-lobed cf. 5-7 lobes. London plane has seed balls typically two [(1)-2-(4)] per stem cf. 3-6 in *P. orientalis*.

FLOWER COLOURS

Green

DISTRIBUTION

Planted in NZ since at least 1870

(<https://www.ccc.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Parks-Gardens/Christchurch-Botanic-Gardens/BotanicGardensWalkingGuide.pdf>)

GENUS

Platanus

FAMILY

Platanaceae

AUTHORITY

Platanus orientalis L.

SYNONYMS

A number of cultivars are available in NZ, the most common being 'Autumn Glory' increasingly used to replace London Planes as a street tree.

YEAR NATURALISED

2010

ORIGIN

South-east Europe to South-west Asia

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental; shade

ETYMOLOGY

orientalis: From the Latin *orientale*, meaning 'eastern' but sometimes also translated as 'from the Orient'.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Platanus_orientalis



One of 3-6 globose heads of female flowers in catkin; cv 'Autumn Glory', Wicksteed St, Whanganui. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 18/10/2016, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Pubescent new leaf of cv 'Autumn Glory', Wicksteed St, Whanganui. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 18/10/2016, Licence: CC BY-NC.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Colin C Ogle, Sep 2016

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/platanus-orientalis/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026