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Botanical name:

*Ginkgo biloba*

Common name:

Maidenhair Tree

Origin:

China

Typical height:

15-20m

Typical width:

7-12m

Growth rate:

Slow

Typical form:

Narrow, domed. Ascending branches.

Characteristics:

Fan shaped leaves, bright green in summer turning a vivid yellow/gold in autumn. Bark is a grey–brown with darker furrows.

Inconspicuous green flowers borne in catkins in spring.

Site requirements:

Prefers moist soil but can adapt to a range of conditions.

Tolerances:

High tolerance to drought, soil compaction, wind, and waterlogging. Virtually pest free.

Suitable for use under powerlines:

Not suitable.

Examples in Wyndham:

TBC.

Notes:

Transplants readily and is easy to establish.

Buy only male or grafted, non-fruiting varieties

because the fruit of female trees has an obnoxious odour.

Requires pruning to develop strong structure.

Autumn colour is short lived as the leaves turn and fall quickly.

Facts and trivia:

A long-lived tree with many in Asia thought to be over 1000 years of age.

It is the last species of a genus that has wider representation in the fossil record, which dates back to the Jurassic period. Though *Ginkgo biloba* is now endangered and isolated to isolated areas in China, it was more widespread in the past, and the leaf fossil of another *Ginkgo* species has been found in Leongatha in East Gippsland, Australia.

They are dioecious, individual trees being either male or female and unlike nearly all other trees they reproduce with motile sperm.

One of the oldest in Australia can be seen at Geelong Botanic Gardens.

References:

Parsons, S., 2009, *Ginkgo Biloba*, National Arboretum Canberra, Date accessed 3 December 2019,  
<[https://www.nationalarboretum.act.gov.au/living-collection/trees/tree\\_stories/the\\_ginkgo](https://www.nationalarboretum.act.gov.au/living-collection/trees/tree_stories/the_ginkgo)>