



Images: Treeologic ©



Botanical name:

*Melia azedarach* 'Elite'

Common name:

White Cedar

Origin:

Cultivar. Species comes from northern India, central and western China, Southeast Asia extending down to northern Australia. Has also become naturalised in other areas of Australia.

Typical height:

6-10 metres

Typical width:

5-8 metres

Growth rate:

Fast

Typical form:

Broad-domed (umbrageous form) medium sized deciduous tree.

Characteristics:

Glossy, bi-pinnate green foliage, turning yellow in autumn. Dark brown fissured bark becoming grey-brown and furrowed with age. Purplish flowers, yellow berry.

'Elite' cultivar reportedly sterile.

Site requirements:

Can be grown on wide range of well-drained soils; from sandy to heavy-clays. Adaptable to full range of pH.

Tolerances:

Good urban tolerances, such as compacted sites. High tolerance of drought and heat. Low tolerance of waterlogged conditions. It can grow in small cut outs in hard paved surfaces along main roads.

Responds well to heavy pruning.

Suitable for use under powerlines:

Due to broad form and adaptability to pruning, White Cedar is suitable under powerlines.

Notes:

Only use sterile forms of the species.

A beautiful shade tree that has good ornamental characteristics as well as being able to adapt to a range of soil conditions and is drought tolerant.

Consider the following cultivars:

*Melia azedarach* 'Caroline' (PBR). A grafted variety to ensure a consistent and uniform dense, compact form.

Formative prune to develop good branching on a single trunk.

Non-cultivar can be invasive. Fruit drop can be a problem on trees grown from seed.

Facts and trivia:

Extremely adaptable tree. Can be a weed species in warmer climates.

Fruits are poisonous to humans and some other mammals.

References:

Australian National Botanic Gardens and Centre for Australian National Biodiversity Research, Canberra (2012) *Melia azedarach* [Online] Available at:

<https://www.anbg.gov.au/gnp/interns-2008/melia-azedarach.html>

Dirr, M. A. & Warren, K. S. (2019). *The tree book*. Timber Press