



Decaisnea fargesii



Height	3-5 m
Width	2-4m
Crown	broad vase-shaped, half-open crown
Bark and branches	brown, grey
Leaf	green
Flowers	yellowgreen, flowers in May
Fruits	blue
Spines/thorns	None
Toxicity	usually not toxic to people, (large) pets and livestock
Soil type	clayed soil, loamy soil, sandy soil, nutrient-poor soil, acid soil
Paving	tolerates no paving
Winter hardiness zone	6b (-20,5 to -17,8 °C)
Other resistances	resistant to frost (WH 1 - 6)
Shape	clearstem tree, multi-stem treem

Decaisnea fargesii is a sturdy shrub that usually grows up multi-stemmed from the base to a height of 3-5 m. Its relatively thick twigs are light green and strikingly blue-green frosted. They bear hefty, unevenly pinnate leaves up to 80 cm long. The 13-25 partial leaves are ovate and dark green that, before falling off in autumn, turn brownish-yellow. The flowers appear in slightly drooping panicles, more or less hidden among the leaves. The panicles can grow up to 40 cm, but as the flowers are yellow-green, they are not very conspicuous. The fruits, however, are all the more conspicuous. These are up to about 1 cm in size, pod-shaped and fleshy. On the outside, they are dull grey-blue. Inside the fruit, black disc-shaped seeds are arranged in a colourless jelly. The fruits ripen at the same time as the leaves fall off in autumn, making them very conspicuous. Decaisnea fargesii prefers to grow in nutrient-rich, sufficiently moist yet well-drained soil, in full sun. The substantial compound leaves are moderately wind resistant and this species is best used in a somewhat sheltered location. The name honours two French botanists: Joseph Decaisne (1807-1882) and Paul Farges (1844-1912) introduced -independently of each other- many plants from China and Japan to the West.