



Sequoia sempervirens 'Illa Martin'



Height	30 - 40 m
Width	6-10m
Crown	narrow pyramidal
Bark and branches	twigs reddish brown, bark orange brown, thick and softly fibrous, flaking in long strips
Leaf	needles, arranged in spiral shape, dark green, 1.5 - 2,5 cm, blue green
Flowers	inconspicuous
Fruits	hanging, ovoid cones, about 1,5 - 3 cm
Spines/thorns	None
Toxicity	usually not toxic to people, (large) pets and livestock
Soil type	sandy, loamy soil, well-permeable
Soil moisture	suitable for wet soil
Paving	tolerates no paving
Winter hardiness zone	7b (-14,9 to -12,3 °C)
Wind resistance	good, also tolerates sea wind
Other resistances	can withstand wind
Application	coastal areas
Shape	clearstem tree, clearstem conifer, specimen conifer
Origin	U.S. National Arboretum, Washington D.C., USA, 2003

'Illa Martin' is a large to very large tree with the same narrow pyramidal growth habit as the species *Sequoia sempervirens*. The tree branches well, forming a dense crown. The most striking difference with the species is that its needles are blue-green in summer. In winter, however, they turn dark green. Also, 'Martin' has proven to be more hardy than the species and other cultivars. A specimen of *S. sempervirens* in Trompenburg Gardens & Arboretum came well through the winter of 1955-1956, one of the harshest winters of the 20th century. Of some 10,000 seedlings from 1952, only five survived this winter. It was not until 1999 that Dick van Hoey Smith christened the tree 'Martin', after Dr Martin of Sequoiafarm in Kaldenkirchen, Germany, who had distributed the seeds. These seeds originally came from California. Quite coincidentally, several clones were named 'Martin' by several people. It was then decided to change the name to 'Illa Martin', Dr Martin's wife. In Germany, the various, partly unnamed clones are still called Martin Klon. More hardy than other clones of *S. sempervirens*, 'Illa Martin' is more widely applicable as a solitary in parks and large gardens. But this cultivar is also suitable as avenue tree in green spaces.