Aceraceae  Acer

Acer davidii
Chinese maple, Snakebark maple

Height  8 - 12 (15) m
Crown  oval to round, light, open crown, capricious growing
Bark and branches  twigs purple with greyish white longitudinal stripes
Leaf  oval to elongated, dark green, 8 - 16 cm
Attractive autumn colour  yellow, orange, red
Flowers  pendent corymb-shaped racemes, light yellow, May
Fruits  single-seeded, single-winged, light green
Spines/thorns  none
Toxicity  non-toxic (usually)
Soil type  all soils
Paving  tolerates no paving
Winter hardiness  6a (-23,3 to -20,6 °C)
Wind resistance  good
Wind / frost / salt  resistant to frost (WH 1 - 6)
Fauna tree  valuable for bees (honey plant), valuable for butterflies
Playground tree  yes
Application  parks, tree containers, theme parks, cemeteries, roof gardens, large gardens
Type/shape  clearstem tree, feathered tree, multi-stem tree, specimen tree
Origin  Central China

Because of its conspicuously striped bark A. davidii, together with A. capillipes and A. rufinerve, belong to the so-called "Snake Bark maples". The young twigs are dark purple-red and retain this colour during winter. The older twigs and stem have conspicuously greyish white longitudinal stripes. The leaves are less prominently lobed and unlike A. capillipes the leaves of A. davidii are hairy on the under surface along the veins. The leaf of young plants is ternate, those of older trees do not have lobes. The flowers are unisexual, male and female flowers appear on one plant. The plant has a strongly branched and compact root system. The application of the plant is restricted to parks and larger gardens because it is less suitable for use in hard surfaces. This decorative tree will also stand out well in green borders.