Rutaceae Ptelea
Ptelea trifoliata
Hop tree, Wafer ash, Stinking ash

Height 5 - 6 (9) m
Crown round, dark, dense crown, capricious growing
Bark and branches bark grey-brown, somewhat grooved, young twigs green
Leaf triple, glossy green, 6 - 15 cm
Sprout late sprout
Attractive autumn colour yellow
Flowers in broad plumes, greenish-white, June, fragrant flowers
Fruits broad plumes with flattened winged nutlets (samaras)
Spines/thorns none
Toxicity non-toxic (usually)
Soil type nutritious, well drained
Paving tolerates partial paving
Winter hardiness 5a (-28.8 to -26.1 °C)
Wind resistance good
Wind / frost / salt resistant to frost (WH 1 - 6)
Light requirement suitable for shadow
Fauna tree valuable for bees (honey plant), valuable for butterflies
Playground tree yes
Application parks, tree containers, cemeteries, large gardens, small gardens, patio gardens
Type/shape clearstem tree, multi-stem tree, specimen tree
Origin the east of North America and Mexico

Grows naturally on dry rocky slopes in the mountains of eastern North America and Mexico. The loose crown is rounded and open and all parts of the tree are aromatic. The smooth bark is grey-brown, later somewhat grooved and slightly flaky. One-year-old twigs are green, older twigs yellowish-brown. The leaves are triple and fragrant. The autumn colour is yellow. The unremarkable small flowers grow in large plumes measuring up to 8 cm and have a strong scent especially in the evening. The large flattened nut fruits, measuring approx. 2 cm, grown in dense plumes and are yellowish-green. They resemble the fruit of the elm. 'Ptelea' is Ancient Greek for elm. The fruits dry on the tree and remain decorative until deep into the winter. It is an excellent forage tree, attracting many honeybees and bumblebees. Is very seldom cultivated.