



Phellodendron amurense 'Macho' 'Macho' Amur Corktree¹

Edward F. Gilman and Dennis G. Watson²

INTRODUCTION

Growing 30 to 40 feet tall with an equal spread, 'Macho' Amur Corktree has a short, thick trunk and an open, rounded canopy which makes it ideal as a durable shade tree (Fig. 1). It can be used as a street and parking lot planting because it is fruitless. The deciduous, dark green, pinnately compound leaflets change to bronze and yellow in the fall before dropping. The insignificant yellow/green flowers appear in late May to early June on 2 to 3.5-inch-long panicles. Fruits are not produced on this male selection of Corktree. The species can naturalize as seeds readily germinate in the landscape, but this will not be a problem for this cultivar.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Scientific name: *Phellodendron amurense* 'Macho'
Pronunciation: fell-oh-DEN-drawn am-moor-EN-see
Common name(s): 'Macho' Amur Corktree, 'Macho' Chinese Corktree
Family: *Rutaceae*
USDA hardiness zones: 3B through 7 (Fig. 2)
Origin: not native to North America
Uses: large parking lot islands (> 200 square feet in size); wide tree lawns (>6 feet wide); medium-sized parking lot islands (100-200 square feet in size); medium-sized tree lawns (4-6 feet wide); recommended for buffer strips around parking lots or for median strip plantings in the highway; near a deck or patio; shade tree; specimen; sidewalk cutout (tree pit); residential street tree; tree has been successfully grown in urban areas where air pollution, poor drainage, compacted soil, and/or drought are common

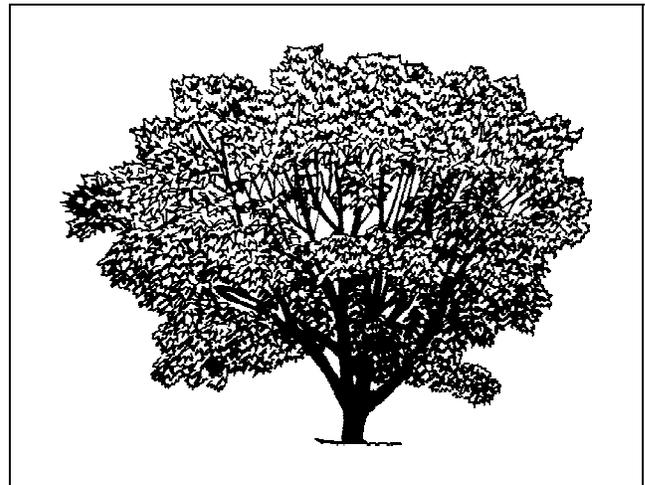


Figure 1. Middle-aged 'Macho' Amur Corktree.

Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the tree

DESCRIPTION

Height: 30 to 40 feet
Spread: 30 to 40 feet
Crown uniformity: irregular outline or silhouette
Crown shape: oval; upright; vase shape
Crown density: moderate
Growth rate: medium
Texture: medium

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: opposite/subopposite (Fig. 3)
Leaf type: odd pinnately compound
Leaflet margin: entire; undulate

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Leaflet shape: elliptic (oval); ovate
Leaflet venation: pinnate; reticulate
Leaf type and persistence: deciduous
Leaflet blade length: 2 to 4 inches
Leaf color: green
Fall color: copper; yellow
Fall characteristic: showy

Flower

Flower color: green; white
Flower characteristics: inconspicuous and not showy; spring flowering

Fruit

There is no fruit on this tree.

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: routinely grown with, or trainable to be grown with, multiple trunks; grow mostly upright and will not droop; showy trunk; tree wants to grow with several trunks but can be trained to grow with a single trunk; no thorns

Pruning requirement: requires pruning to develop strong structure
Breakage: resistant
Current year twig color: brown; gray
Current year twig thickness: thick

Culture

Light requirement: tree grows in full sun
Soil tolerances: clay; loam; sand; acidic; occasionally wet; alkaline; well-drained
Drought tolerance: high
Aerosol salt tolerance: moderate
Soil salt tolerance: poor

Other

Roots: surface roots can lift sidewalks or interfere with mowing
Winter interest: tree has winter interest due to unusual form, nice persistent fruits, showy winter trunk, or winter flowers
Outstanding tree: tree has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more
Invasive potential: little, if any, potential at this time

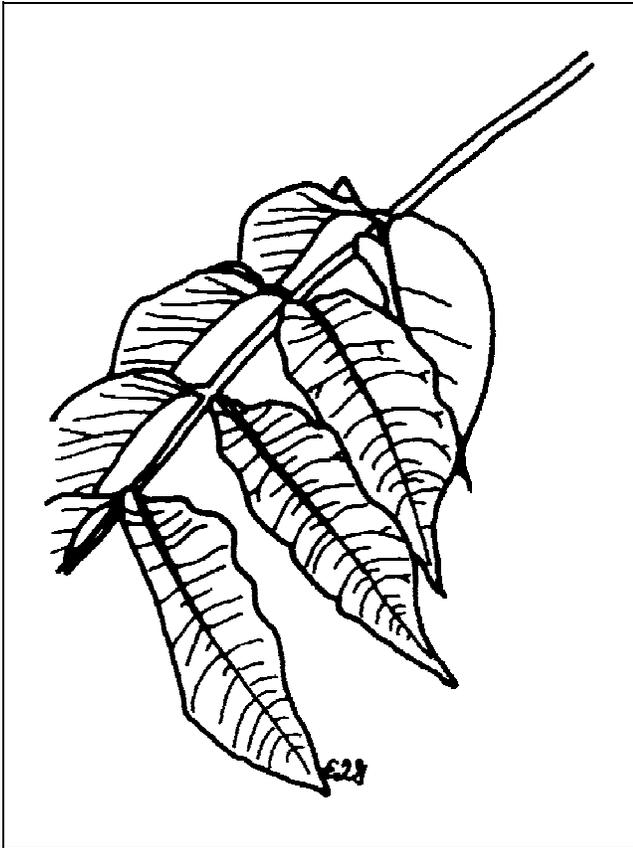


Figure 3. Foliage of 'Macho' Amur Corktree.

Pest resistance: no pests are normally seen on the tree

USE AND MANAGEMENT

The fruitless cultivar 'Macho' has thick, leathery leaves and a more pleasing, upright-spreading growth form. The attractive grey/brown bark is deeply ridged and furrowed, and on mature trees it takes on a corky texture. This cultivar should be planted instead of the species due to its less spreading and less drooping habit which is more suited for street tree planting. Pruning usually is not required once good branch structure is established early in the life of the tree. The shallow root system needs plenty of room to expand in order to establish the tree properly. Allow for adequate soil space for root development so they do not lift sidewalks and pavement. 'Shademaster' is also fruitless and available in the trade.

Amur Corktree grows rapidly and prefers to be grown in full sun on deep, rich soil but will tolerate any soil, acid or alkaline. It tolerates wet soil and drought. Once highly recommended as a street and urban-tolerant tree, it does not appear to hold up to the rigors of city life under certain conditions, particularly

restricted soil spaces (although the experts appear to disagree as to the tolerance of this tree to city life - the tree may be more sensitive to soil conditions than is commonly realized).

Propagation is by seed, which germinate readily.

Pests and Diseases

This tree is virtually pest-free.