

# Manchurian Ash



# Manchurian Ash (*Fraxinus mandshurica*)

## General Description

A medium to large tree similar to the native Black Ash in leaf characteristics. Has a slightly lower moisture requirement than black ash. Produces a very dense, oval to rounded, shapely crown. One year twigs are golden colored. Lacy-textured foliage. The largest tree in North Dakota is 37 feet tall with a canopy spread of 25 feet.

### Leaves and Buds

Bud Arrangement - Opposite.

Bud Color - Black or nearly so.

Bud Size - Terminal buds are ovate, pointed, 1/4 inch long.

Leaf Type and Shape - Pinnate compound, 9 to 11 leaflets, rachis slightly winged.

Leaf Margins - Sharply serrate.

Leaf Surface - Nearly smooth, usually pilose or hispid on the veins beneath, rufous-tomentose at leaflet bases.

Leaf Length - 10 to 12 inches; leaflets 3 to 5 inches.

Leaf Width - 2 to 4 inches; leaflets 1 to 2 inches.

Leaf Color - Light green above; yellow fall color.

### Flowers and Fruits

Flower Type - Dioecious.

Flower Color - Greenish-yellow.

Fruit Type - Winged samaras, oblong-lanceolate, 1 to 2 inches long.

Fruit Color - Light-brown to tan.

### Form

Growth Habit - Dense, oval canopy, broadening with age.

Texture - Medium, summer; medium-coarse, winter.

Crown Height - 30 to 55 feet.

Crown Width - 25 to 35 feet.

Bark Color - Gray and smooth when young, later developing shallow fissures. One year twigs, golden color.

Root System - Roots are shallow, fibrous and spreading.

## Environmental Requirements

### Soils

Soil Texture - Adapted to a wide variety of soils.

Soil pH - 5.5 to 8.0.

Windbreak Suitability Group - 1, 1K, 2, 2K, 3, 4, 4C 5.

### Cold Hardiness

USDA Zone 3.

### Water

Prefers moist well-drained soils.

### Light

Partial sun to full sun.

## Uses

### Conservation/Windbreaks

Medium height tree for farmstead windbreaks.

### Wildlife

Seeds are eaten by some birds.

### Agroforestry Products

Wood - Firewood, crafts.

Medicinal - Used for sores and itches.

### Urban/Recreational

Good landscape tree on moist sites or where additional moisture can be supplied. Has a tailored, dense oval form, becoming more rounded with age.

## Cultivated Varieties

Mancana Ash (*Fraxinus mandshurica* 'Mancana') - Introduced by Morden Research Station, Morden, Manitoba. Dense oval to globose male tree. Very hardy and attractive.

## Related Species

Black Ash (*Fraxinus nigra*)

Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*)

## Pests

Appears to have more resistance to anthracnose and ash plant bug than green ash.