

Plantanus X acerifolia *
(*P. orientalis*)

PLAT-uh-nus
ay-ser-ee-FOE-lee-uh

(Sycamore – London Plane)

Platanaceae (Plane Tree family)

Origin: England

Species characteristics:

Form - Deciduous. Formal, moderate to fast growing to 60' with 30-40' spread.
Broad open crown of spreading to slightly drooping branches and coarse foliage.

Trunk – Straight and stout. Variable bark, smooth in youth, becoming patchy and shedding with age to reveal smooth cream-colored bark along upper trunk and larger limbs.

Foliage – Glossy, 3-5" long, 4-10" wide, lobed maple-like leaves, which are bright green above and light green with wooly hair along raised veins beneath.

Flowers/fruit – Inconspicuous spring flowers, male and female on separate twigs. Brown, ball-like bristly seed clusters hang singly or in strings of 2 (rarely 3) on pendent stalks throughout the winter. This differentiates them from the seed clusters of *P. racemosa*, which may hang in chains of many as 5. Another difference, if seed balls are not present is the absence of conspicuous sheathing stipules which persist after defoliation with *P. racemosa*.

Cultivars – 'Bloodgood' has some resistance to anthracnose. "Yarwood" is somewhat resistant to powdery mildew.

Significant pest problems are anthracnose, powdery mildew, and spider mites.

Site suitability:

Sunset zones – 2 - 24

Clearances - Suitable for 7' minimum parkways, medians or cutouts.

Good for street sides, medians, parks and lawns.

Culture considerations:

Drought tolerant, but better with some deep watering in summer. Tolerates most soils, smog, soot, dust and reflected heat. Need to dispose of dead leaves and twigs since anthracnose can overwinter on them.

Comments, notes:

*Note – Hybrid between *P. occidentalis* and *P. orientalis*, 1663

