

# South Carolina Urban and Community Forestry Council

## *Choosing the Right Tree for the Right Place*

### Ginkgo biloba

<b>Latin name:</b> <i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	<b>Texture:</b> Medium
<b>Common name:</b> Ginkgo	<b>Growth rate:</b> Slow-growing, long-lived
<b>Hardiness Zones:</b> 4-8	<b>Light:</b> Full sun to part shade
<b>Height &amp; Width:</b> 50-75'h x 50-60'w	<b>Moisture:</b> Moderate
<b>Type:</b> Deciduous	<b>Soil:</b> pH adaptable, well-drained
<b>Habit:</b> Oval while young; wide spreading with age; irregular	<b>Origin:</b> China

**Features:** The asymmetrical shape is oval and open when young becoming full and spreading with age. Age adds to its beauty. Bright green leaves are distinctly fan shaped. Female plants produce foul-smelling fruit and should be avoided in favor of male plants for public locations. Young trunks are gray and smooth while mature trunks have deep brown furrows. In autumn trees appear to glow with color due to bright yellow leaf color. Pest resistance is extraordinarily high.



**Siting:** Use as an urban tree, a specimen, street tree, or in a generous sidewalk cutout. Wood is strong and not susceptible to breakage. Plants prefer deep, sandy, moderately moist soil; yet tolerate a wide variety of soil textures, both alkaline and acidic pH, and occasional wet soil. Ginkgo requires ample above and below ground space. Place in an area with more than 200 square feet of total planting area; in a planting strip at least 7' wide; or at least 6' from pavement or wall. Cultivars with narrow crowns are available for restricted above ground horizontal spaces.

**Care:** Easy to grow, transplants easily, and is virtually pest free. Prune while young to develop a strong central leader. Plant so root flare is visible. At planting, water the root ball daily with two gallons of water per inch of trunk diameter for two weeks, every other day for two months and then weekly until established. Modify water recommendations to reflect site drainage and rainfall. Apply 3" of vegetative mulch over the planted area. Do not allow mulch to touch the trunk. Plants are drought tolerant once established.

**Pests:** Plants have high insect and disease resistance when cultural requirements are met.



Contact the SC Urban and Community Forestry Council at [www.scurbanforestry.org](http://www.scurbanforestry.org) for membership and additional information.

\*Soil pH is determined using a professional soil test. Contact your Clemson University County Extension service for assistance [www.clemson.edu/extension/](http://www.clemson.edu/extension/). Click on "local offices".

Tree selected from the *Urban Tree Species Guide: Choosing the Right Tree for the Right Place*.

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