

Ornamental Trees



1-15

Acer palmatum



Arlington National Cemetery Washington DC

Japanese Maple, Madonna Inn, San Luis Obispo, CA



Canopy forms a “broad dome”



Acer palmatum (OCC)



Acer palmatum leaf and bark (OCC)



Santa Isabel St., Costa Mesa





Typical palmate leaf





Acer palmatum seeds (Samaras)



Japanese maples do well in pots and are good candidates for bonsai



Acer palmatum 'Atropurpureum'



Acer palmatum 'Bloodgood'



Acer palmatum 'Dancing peacock Full moon'



Acer palmatum 'Dissectum'

Acer palmatum – Japanese Maple

- Typically, a many stemmed tree Native to Japan and Korea growing slowly to 20' with an equal or greater spread.
- The most airy and delicate of the Maples
- Palmate leaves divided into 5-9 lobes typically 2" across
- Many different "Types" and varieties within those types
- Struggles in So. Cal. With high heat, high pH, and heavy soils.
- Prone to tip burn on the leaves
- Best in raised planter or in a pot.
- When in a pot, root pruning of its fibrous root system promotes a healthier tree.
- Adding white vinegar to irrigation water helps to lower pH

Alnus rhombifolia









CBS 

Typical form ("Pyramidal")



At the Corner of Tustin Ave. and
20th St. Costa Mesa



Top of leaf



Underside of leaf



Male flower is a tassel-like structure called a **catkin**



Female flowers develop into small woody **cones**

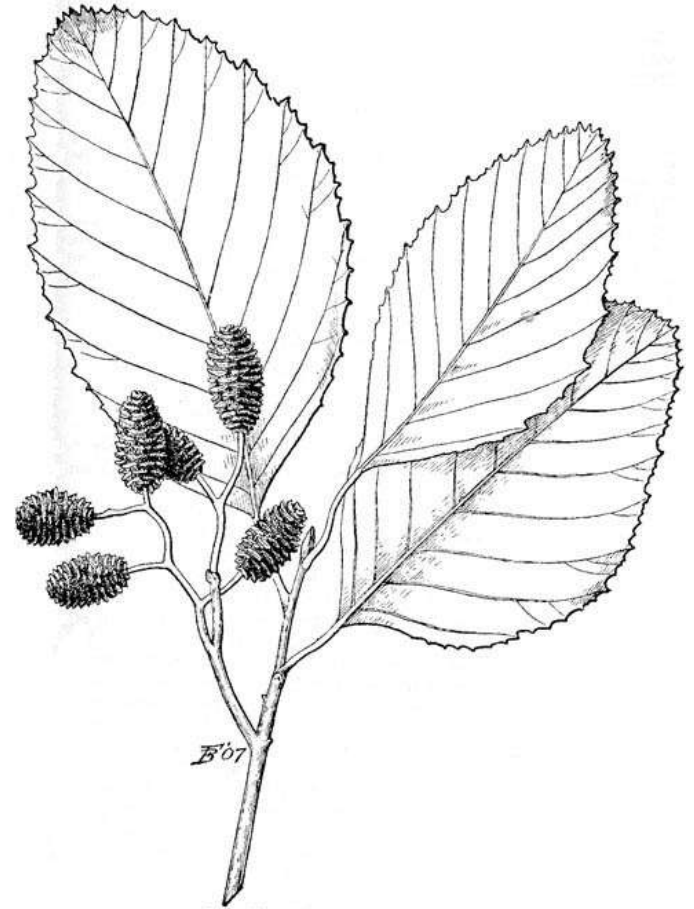


FIG. 116.—*Alnus rhombifolia*: ♀, seed.



Female flowers soon to develop into cones



Topped Alder

Alnus rhombifolia – White alder

- Deciduous native to most of California's foothills except along the coast; Mountains of Oregon, Washington British Columbia, and Idaho
- Fast grower 50 to 90' Tall and 40-60' wide.
- Branches spread out, then droop at the ends
- Coarsely toothed leaves are dark green above and paler beneath
- Tolerates heat and wind
- Susceptible to tent caterpillars, borers, and mistletoe in its native range.
- Can handle growing in a lawn.
- Not necessarily drought tolerant
- Pyramidal shape
- Notice parallel pronounced veins produced from central leaf vein

Jacaranda mimosifolia



OCC Bookstore – Typically Late May through June









Jacaranda Bark





1 Bipinnately compound jacaranda leaf

Jacaranda leaflet w/ leaflets (bipinnately compound leaf)









One of my 3 Jacaranda trees in full bloom

The worst place to park a car



Costa Mesa St.







Jacaranda mimosifolia - Jacaranda

- From Brazil. Name comes from the local native population
- 25-40' Tall and 15' to 30' Wide
- Sometimes multi-trunked
- Fernlike delicate foliage emerges after blooms begin to show off. Bipinnately compound leaves
- Lavender Blue blooms are spectacular in late May through June **but are problematic around sidewalks or streets with cars parked beneath.**
- **Sticky honeydew comes from feeding of the bean aphid as the flowers emerge raining down on surfaces below**
- **Leaves come out after blooms start to fade in June**

Ceiba speciosa











Trunk with typical
“palmately
compound” leaf



Ceiba speciosa

OCC Merrimac parking lot - August 14'



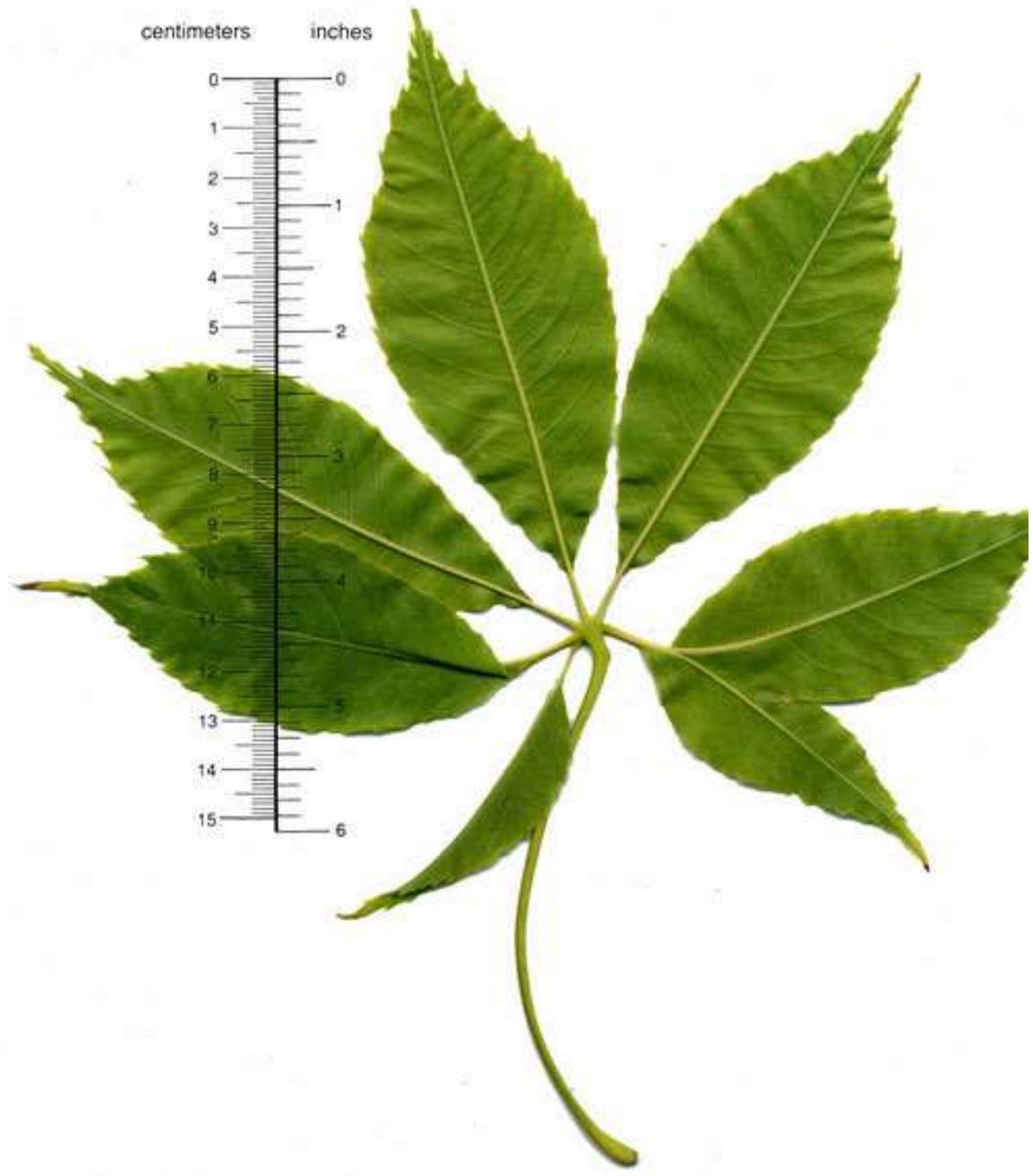
The flossy silk bursting from the seed pods protecting the small black seeds inside



Seed







centimeters inches





Topped Floss silk tree

Corner of Elden and East 19th St.
Costa Mesa

***Ceiba speciosa* – Floss silk tree** **(*Chorisia speciosa* Syn.)**

- A heavily spine-studded trunk and clouds of large, showy flowers have firmly embedded this South American native in Southern California horticulture.
- 30 to 60' Tall and wide
- Leaves are palmately compound like fingers on a finger
- Pink, purplish rose, or burgundy flowers are 4" or more across. **Flowers look a bit like tiger lilies with black spots on petals.**
- **Fruit a 4-6" long capsule with cottony material (K pock) surrounding shiny black seeds. Originally used as life preserver filling**

Albizia julibrissin





Albizia julibrissin
Mimosa, Silk Tree







Albizia julibrissin Bark



Bipinnately compound leaf



Green flattish pods seed compartments visible



Magnolia St. Costa Mesa







Jacaranda mimosifolia leaf



Albizia julibrissin leaf



Comparing 2 trees with similar bipinately compound leaves on list #1

Jacaranda mimosifolia leaflet



Albizia julibrissin leaflet



Albizia julibrissin 'Summer chocolate'



Albizia julibrissin- Silk tree

- Native to Asia ranging from Iran to Japan
- Up to 40' tall with a 40 to 80' spread
(Broad Dome shape)
- Ferny, pale-yellowish green leaves are light sensitive and fold at night
- The fluffy, pink, early summertime flowers look like powder puffs from their **staminate flowers that look like fuzzy balls tossed on top of the tree's canopy**

Bauhinia variegata





60 year old specimen in full bloom along with the Plant propagation class Spring 2016

Removed to make room for the new OCC planetarium currently under construction

Efforts were made for the class to take cuttings from this tree to preserve its lineage but all of the cuttings failed to root.



Leaf, Fabaceae pod, and bard of an older specimen





Bauhinia variegata Bark (old specimen) OCC



Corner of Santa Ana Ave. and 22nd St.







Bauhinia variegata – Orchid tree

- Semi-evergreen to deciduous Native to India and China is the most frequently planted species of Bauhinia
- Typically starting as a many stemmed shrub if staked and thoughtfully pruned becomes an attractive tree 20 to 35' Tall and wide
- Showy orchid-like flowers 2-3" wide light pink to deep purple from Winter into Spring
- Pods follow flowers and can be considered an unattractive feature but are easily removed.
- Can spend several months looking rangy after leaf drop
- Needs pruning to form an attractive shape.
- Flowers can emerge directly from branches or tree trunk

Cassia leptophylla









Cassia leptophylla bark













Cassia leptophylla – Gold medallion tree

- Nearly evergreen this open headed, fast-growing Brazilian tree grows 20-25' tall and 30' wide and is spreading with a tendency to weep
- Shapely and graceful as a single trunked tree
- Deep yellow flowers to 3" wide come in 8" long spikes mainly in summer with some sporadic blooming afterwards.
- Long round pronounced seed pods can be a litter problem in some situations
- Likes well-drained fertile soil and some early pruning to establish a well-formed tree
- **Excellent patio tree, for smaller spaces**

Erythrina caffra







Erythrina crataegus





Erythrina caffra Bark



ERYTHRINA CAFFRA



Compound leaf with occasional spurs on backside of petiole



OCC's former *Erythrina caffra* till



Erythrina caffra – Coral tree

- Native to South Africa grows to 24-40' Tall and 40 to 60' wide
- Leaves are spade-shaped and compound (always in 3's) Leaflets 2-4" across
- Wavy pods with bright red seeds rarely seen
- Drops leaves in early winter then produces clusters of coral red tubular flowers in mid to late winter followed by new leaf growth
- Fat smooth trunks can be brittle especially when branching at the base which is the tree's natural form. They are often pruned severely to reduce weight on the trunks

Ginkgo biloba – Maidenhair tree





Golden fall color and the flesh covered seeds (Fruits) of the female tree



Unmistakable leaf





Fleshy outer covering of coveted seed.
Seed used in cooking. Fleshy outer covering
smell is “off-putting” to many.
Fruit is on Females trees only





Ginkgo biloba (3) in the Horticulture dept.



Thousands of people from all over China have travelled to the Zhongnan Mountains for a very simple pleasure: to look at a tree. It's not just any tree, but a famous Ginkgo that has dropped its stunning leaves every fall for 1400 years, creating a shimmering carpet of gold





Ginkgo biloba – Maidenhair tree

- Ancient survivor from prehistoric times when it grew world wide now only thought of as native to 2 small areas in China
- Can grow 70-100' but typically top out at 35 to 50'
- Related to conifers but leaves are quite different from pine needles and are uniquely fan shaped
- Deciduous, long lived, and quite resistant to insect and diseases can handle severe conditions such as air pollution, heat and poor soils
- **Best to plant known males to avoid the falling fruits that have an unpleasant (barf-like) odor.**

Liquidambar styraciflua





A grove of liquidambar providing Summer shade and privacy to the 2nd story



Liquidambar inflorescence
(flower)





Front and back of 7 lobed leaf
(they most commonly have 5 lobes)



Sometimes Liquidambar have
corky wing-like structured on
the stems.





Fruit and Bark





Liquidambar styraciflua Bark

Liquidambar styraciflua – American sweet gum

- Native to the Eastern United States grows to 60' tall (taller in the wild) and 40 to 50' wide
- Upright form early on and more spreading as it ages
- Leaves are palmate (maple-like) and have 5 to 7 lobes
- Furrowed bark and sometimes has corky wing-like stems. But not on all specimens
- One of the best Fall color trees for Southern California
- Many, many varieties based on the ultimate Fall color of the leaves
- Can easily compete with a lawn for water
- Has been struggling recently with several recently exotic imported pests

Ficus carica















Ficus carica bark (OCC)





Typical knobby trunk.

Claremont McKenna College, Claremont, CA





Ficus carica – Common fig

- The only deciduous member of the *Ficus* genus is from the Eastern Mediterranean to Western Asia and has been known to be cultivated for at least 10,000 years.
- Grows relatively fast 15 to 35', but can easily be kept smaller
- Palmate deeply lobed (3 to 5 lobes) leaves 4-9" long and nearly as wide, hairy with a rough texture
- Smooth greyish white bark becomes gnarled and bumpy with age
- Fruits are actually inverted flowers and must be pollinated by a wasp
- Great form, and excellent candidate for a ornamental tree with edible fruit or a fruit tree with great character and the qualities of a good ornamental tree.

Fraxinus uhdei







Leaf



Samara



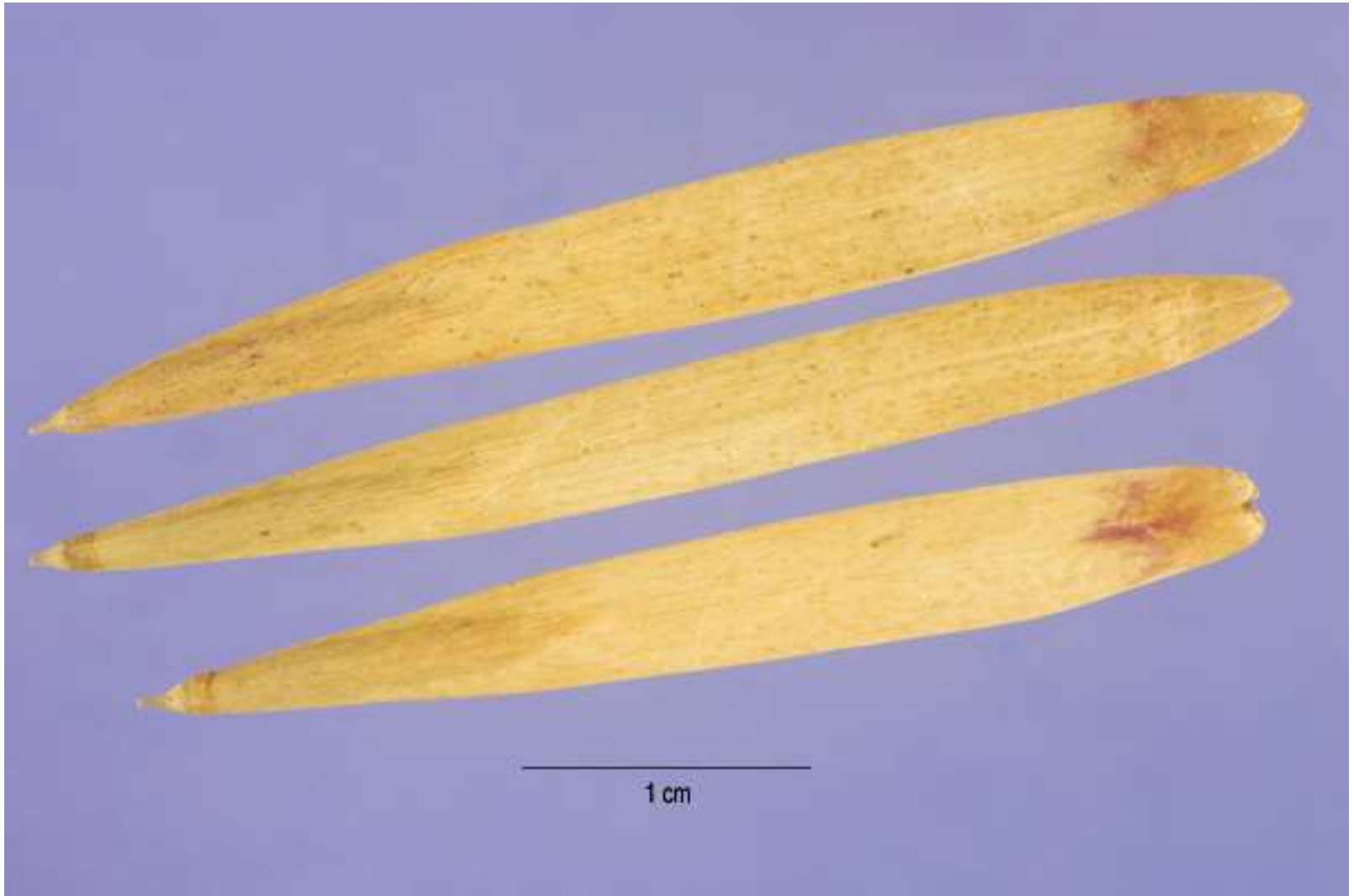
Fraxinus uhdei bark



Leaf



Leaflet



Winged seed - Samara

Fraxinus uhdei – Shamel ash

- Native to Mexico and a favorite in Southern California and low elevation deserts
- Grows fast to 25 to 30 tall and 15' wide in 10 years then may eventually get to 70 to 80' tall and 60' wide slowly as it ages
- Leaves divided into glossy dark green leaflets to 4" long
- Often too big in our Southern /California yards
- A naturally narrow crotching tree typically has an “arching vase” Form
- Can handle drought but prefers regular Summer watering and occasional deep watering

Platanus X hispanica





Grove outside of St. James Park, London, Eng.



Hybrid tree known for its regular form and ability to survive in challenging urban areas









Round (larger than the CA sycamore) Fruits usually in 2's



Plantanus X hispanica
(Syn. *Plantanus X acerifolia*)

– London plane tree

- A hybrid tree between *P. occidentalis* and *P. orientalis* often sold under the latter name
- Grows fast to 40-80' tall and 30-40' wide
- Tolerates many soil types and stands up to smog, soot, dust, and reflected heat
- Not the best choice in windy areas
- In late Spring it shed a multitude of tiny hairs from the leaves that can irritate the sensitive like people that have asthma
- Susceptible to mildew on the leaves
- Has been ravaged recently along with the California sycamore by PSHB in Orange County

Platanus racemosa









Plantanus racemosa Bark



Plantanus racemosa Bark with clearwing moth population affecting bark texture







Fall color a bit brighter in higher elevation areas or in places with colder temps



Platanus racemosa – California sycamore

- A robust native of California's foothills and coastal ranges. In the wild it grows near streams (Riparian – Regular water supply)
- Fast rate of growth 30 to 80' Tall and 25 to 50' wide. Frequently with multiple or leaning trunks
- Attractive patchy bark that flakes to reveal a different color beneath browns, greys and whites
- Large Palmate (Maple like) leaves are deeply lobes and turn a dusty brown in early autumn and are up to 10" across
- Subject to anthracnose disease that overwinters on the dormant buds and infects the emerging twigs in Spring. Tree usually grows through the disease and looks fine by mid Summer.
- Tolerates much heat and wind
- Bark borers can disfigure parts of the trunk but rarely truly hurt the tree

***Salix matsudana* 'Tortuosa'**















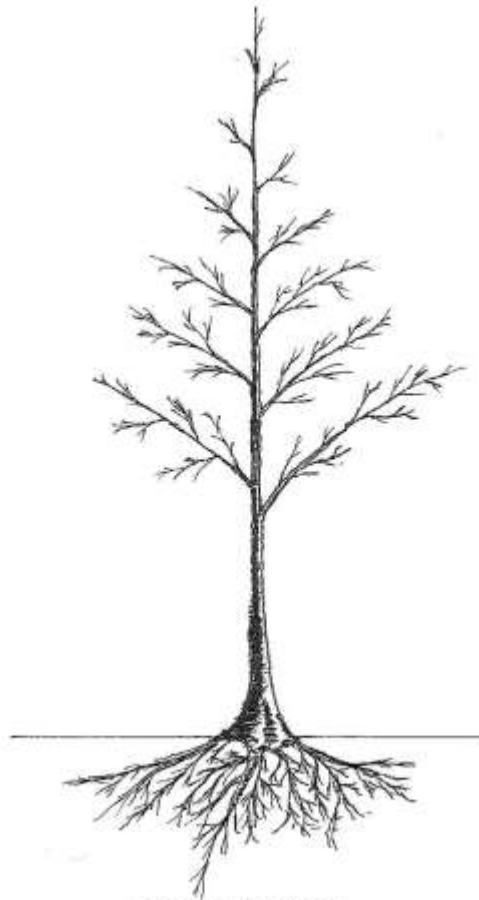
***Salix matsudana 'Tortuosa'* - Corkscrew willow**

- Willows in general are classic streamside trees that enjoy regular water throughout the year.
- Corkscrew willow is a deciduous tree that grows to rapidly to 30' Tall and 20' wide
- Enjoyed for its smaller size (compared to weeping willow) but mostly for its twisted leaves, twigs, branches and even trunks.
- Because of the twisting shape it is a great landscape lighting specimen and the branches are grown and used in the florist trade to add to flower arrangements

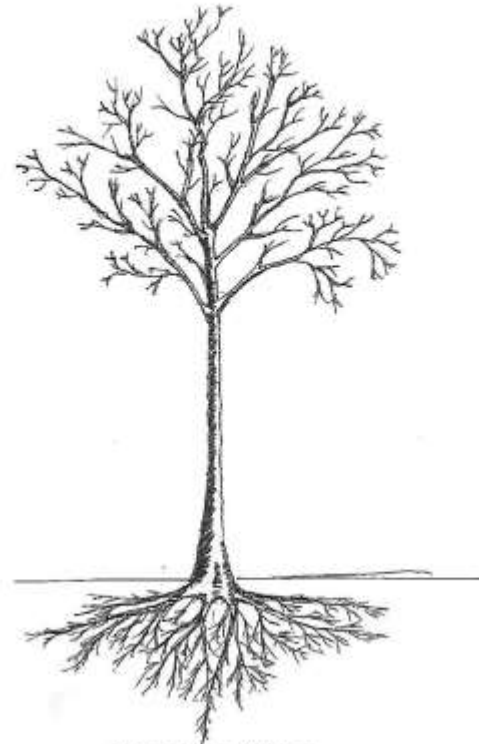
Excurrent vs. Decurrent

- Excurrent – Having a single undivided trunk with lateral branches. Strong Apical dominance.
- Decurrent – Several Branches competing for apical dominance which tends to “round out” the overall form.

Excurrent vs. Decurrent



Excurrent tree



Decurrent tree