

Plant of the Month

February 2016

*Acer pseudoplatanus* 'Leopoldii'

Common name: Variegated sycamore

Family: Aceraceae



Sycamore is a deciduous broadleaf tree native to central, eastern and southern Europe. It was probably introduced to UK in the middle ages and is now a naturalized species.

The botanical name *Acer pseudoplatanus* means like a plane tree, although sycamore is an *Acer* and not closely related to plants in the *Platanus* genus, the leaves are superficially similar.

Sycamores can grow to 35 m and live for 400 years, planted in Parks and Gardens.

Leaves: Palmate have 5 lobes, 7-16 cm across

Flowers: small green/yellow and hang in spikes or racemes

Fruits: after pollination by wind and insects, female flowers develop into distinctive winged fruits known as samaras

Leaf veins: are hairy on the underside

Sycamore is tolerant of sea spray and may be planted near the coast.

*Acer pseudoplatanus* 'Leopoldii'

Broad splashes of creamy yellow variegation make this broad leaf maple exciting. It is a spectacular full sized tree that is a standout in the Landscape. Given the Royal Horticultural Societies First Class Certificate in 1865 and Award of Garden Merit in 1993. Autumn foliage golden yellows.

Hardy and strong growing in sun or part shade

12 – 14 cm girth

Growing in the Geelong Botanic Gardens 10m to east of Hitchcock fountain

Listed on National Trust Heritage Tree Register

An interesting cultivar, this tree is used as a seed source for nursery trade. Seedlings come true to parent plant.

Interesting colour contrast in the historic landscape.

See attached Heritage Tree Register reference

Refs. UK Woodland Trust - sycamores

Mendocino Maples Nursery catalogue USA

Statement of Significance Heritage Tree Register