

Acer griseum, PAPERBARK MAPLE



The leaves are divided into three separate leaflets rather than a solid five pointed leaf like many maples.

Slow growing it can take 15 years to reach its full height.

Hundreds of green samara fill the tree in summer, turning brown in the autumn.



The yellow flowers opened in May, appearing with the pinkish leaves

Born in Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire, E. H. Wilson worked at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens before moving to Kew Gardens. He was then employed by Harry Veitch as a plantsman. In 1899, aged only 23 he was sent to China to search for rare and beautiful plants. During his first trip he discovered the unusual peeling bark of this beautiful maple, which was introduced to Britain in 1901.



The main feature of the tree is its bark which starts to peel after 2 years and continues to peel for the life of the tree.

The leaves change colour throughout the year, being various shades of pinkish-brown and yellow in the spring, green in the summer and then turning to brilliant shades of orange and red in the autumn before falling off to leave the branches bare throughout the winter.



Thuja plicata, WESTERN RED CEDAR

William Lobb was sent to North America by the James Veitch Nursery in Exeter to search for conifers and hardy shrubs.

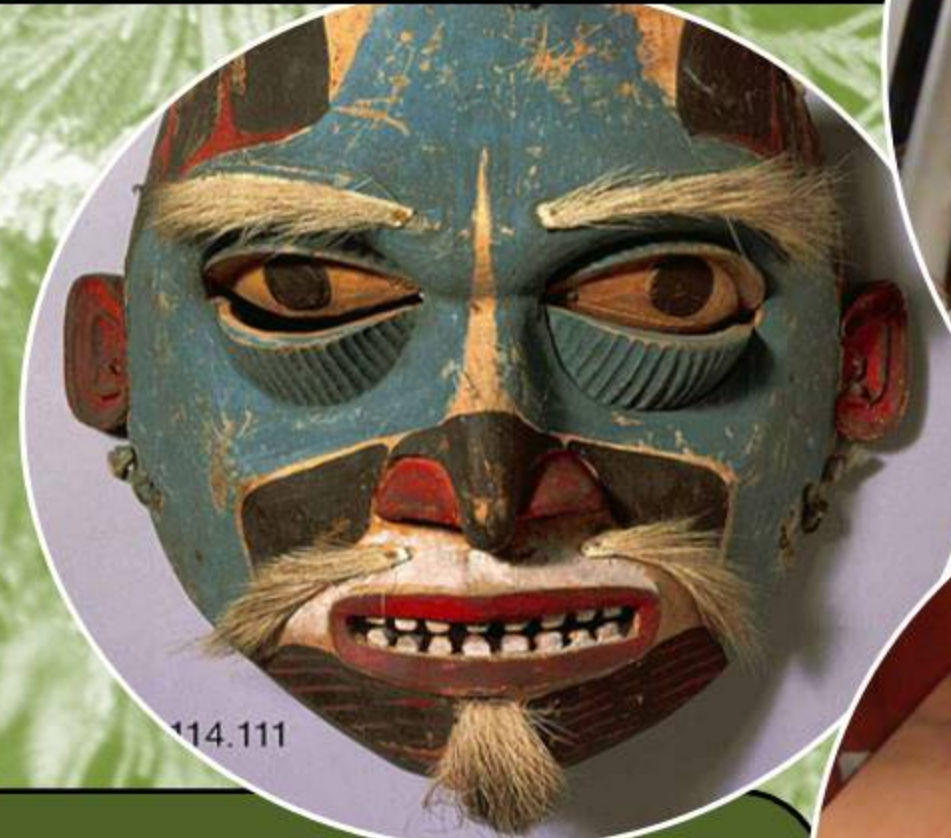
When he sailed into San Francisco harbour in 1849, he saw hundreds of abandoned ships in the port – ‘Gold Fever’ had struck and crews were deserting their ships in the hope of getting rich panning for gold. Lobb was not tempted to join them, but made his way to Oregon and the Columbia River where in 1852 he found the Western Red Cedar.

He was the first collector to gather seeds in bulk to send back to England enabling Veitch to grow thousands of seedling trees.

Sue Shephard, 'Seeds of Fortune - A Gardening Dynasty', Bloomsbury, 2002, p.107.

Totem pole depicting a bear holding a man between his legs with two bear cubs at its feet.

PRM 1901.29.1 House pole carved with raven at the base, bear, human, bird and frog figures. Image courtesy Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford



Cedar mask with rolling eyes and animal skin beard representing a Shaman in a trance or a dying man.

PRM 1884.114.111 Haida. Image courtesy Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford.



Traditionally made Haidan cedar box

PRM 2010.67.1.1/2 Rectangular box (.1) made of a single board of wood, with painted designs on sides and bevelled lid (.2). Haida. Image courtesy Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford.



Tribes such as the Tlingit, Chilkat, Kwakiuti and Haida, of the Pacific Northwest Coast, from Oregon to southeast Alaska made houses up to 100ft long from the tree. They also carved, totem poles, masks, boxes, canoes, and ceremonial objects. They wove capes, hats, shoes and blankets from the bark and roots.

Because of their dependence on the tree, some tribes refer to themselves as ‘people of the red cedar.’

Hilary Stewart, 'Cedar: Tree of Life to the Northwest Coast Indians', Douglas & McIntyre, Vancouver, British Columbia, 1984



The tree as it is today and in 1905

Photograph copyright 'Jephson Gardens, Royal Leamington Spa', Historical Report by Christine Hodgets, 1997, sponsored by Warwick District Council p108.



The cones harden off and turn brown in the autumn.



Tiny green cones appeared at the end of August.

In the spring the tree sprouts both male and female flowers. The male flowers are reddish, the female, yellowish-green.

The tree contains a chemical substance called *Thujaplicin* which serves as a natural fungicide preventing the tree from rotting. This effect can last up to one hundred years, even after the tree has been cut down.

It is, therefore, popular wood for use outdoors, building sheds, roof shingles and cladding.

The natural preservative, as well as rendering the wood water resistant, also prevents boring insects from infesting, making it a natural choice for bee hives and moth balls.

'Field Guide to the Trees and Shrubs of Britain', Reader's Digest Nature Lover's Library, London, 1981, p.277

In 1849 the Leamington Courier recorded the planting of several cedars; Himalay, Lebanon and Deodar. Then in March 1852 it reported that there was a strong desire to make a truly special arboretum. Unfortunately there is no trace of the planting book set up in 1852.

Christine Hodgets, 'Jephson Gardens, Royal Leamington Spa', sponsored by Warwick District Council, 1997, p.31.

Morus nigra, BLACK MULBERRY

Originally from Asia, the Mulberry thrives in Europe and the Middle East, known to have grown in Britain since 1550.

In 1608 King James I had a large Mulberry Garden planted close to Buckingham Palace in an attempt to cultivate silk worms and manufacture silk in England. The project failed because he planted Black Mulberry and silk worms prefer the leaves of the White Mulberry which is found in China.

<http://www.britainfromabove.co.uk/england/england.htm>

Heart-shaped with serrated edges, downy underneath and rough on the top with very small bumps.

The berries change colour as they ripen from white to red to black.

Fruiting may not begin until eight or nine years after planting. Very sweet and juicy mulberries can be made into jams and drinks. For centuries they have been used as a natural dye for wool, silk, cotton and muslin.

There is a large concentration of old Mulberry trees in the Stratford upon Avon area which are thought to come from a cutting planted by Shakespeare. The tree was chopped down in 1760 and much of it was made into Shakespeare souvenirs but a piece is still held in the Economic Botany Collection at Kew Gardens stating that it is from Shakespeare's Mulberry tree.

<http://www.shakespeare.org.uk/visit/stratford-upon-avon/attractions/mulberry-tree>

THE STORY OF PYRAMUS AND THISBE

The story of Pyramus and Thisbe tells of how lovers, kept apart by their parents arranged to meet under a Mulberry Tree. Thisbe, arrived first, but whilst she sat under the tree to wait for Pyramus she spotted a lion, its mouth covered in blood. She ran to hide, dropping her veil as she fled. The lion drank from a nearby stream, then spotting the veil, tossed it in the air before disappearing into the woods. When Pyramus arrived he saw Thisbe's veil covered in blood he thought she had been eaten by the lion, so killed himself. His blood spurted upwards and changed the berries on the tree from white to red. When Thisbe returned she saw that Pyramus was dead. Unable to live without him she took his dagger and killed herself. The Gods, realising that their love was true declared that the berries would for all time change from white, representing their innocence, to red for their love then black for their death.

This story was originally by Ovid and is popular in the play, A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare.

A decision was made to take the top out of the tree to ensure stability.

But this tree was left misshapen and maybe unstable.

The damage was cleared away.

20th July, 2013 the tree was found damaged after a heavy storm.

July - The tree was laden with leaves and fruit.