

WOLLEMIA NOBILIS

Region: Australia

Common name: Wollemi Pine

Plant Family: Aurucariaceae

Abundance: rare

IUCN Red List status: critically endangered

Fully hardy

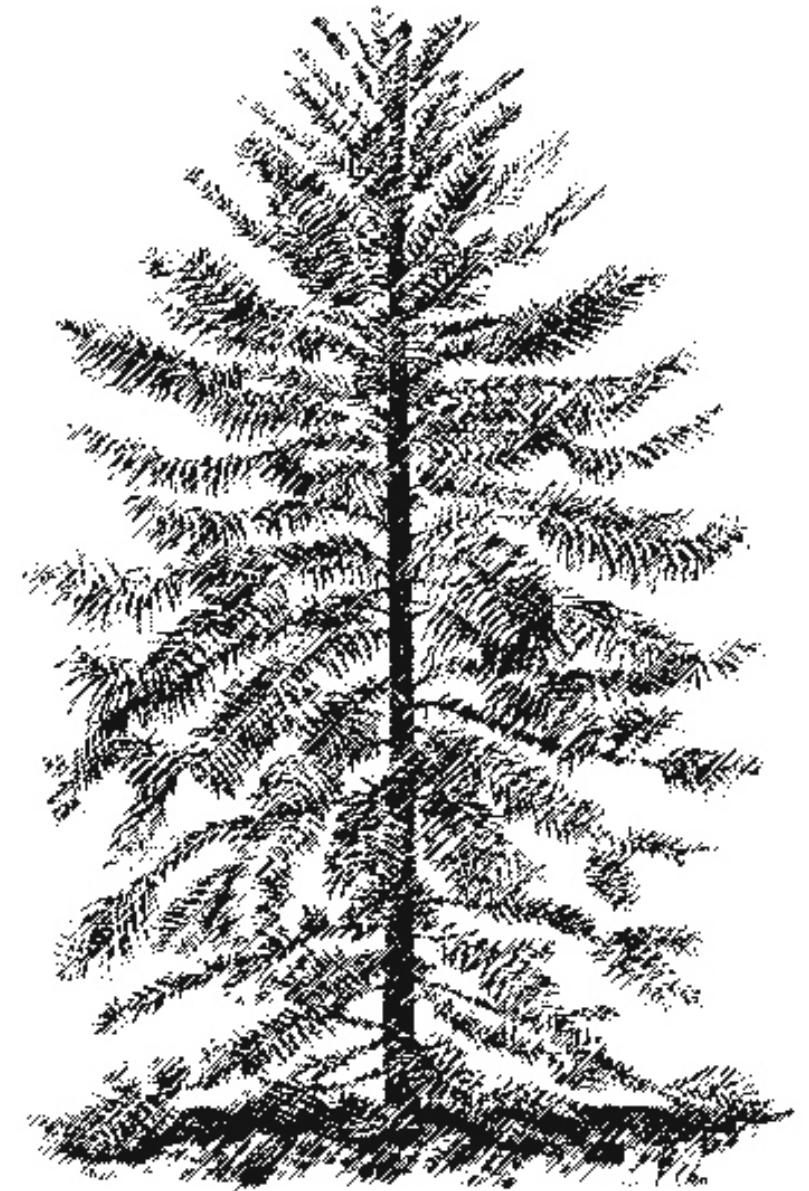
Cultivation: shade conditions of as much as 50% with protection from wind and sun

Soil: shallow, acidic (pH 4.7), free-draining on sandstone with plenty of organic matter but low nutrient levels

Regarded as a living fossil and represents the only living member of an ancient genus dating back to the time of the dinosaurs over 65 million years ago. It was thought to have become extinct over 2 million years ago until a small copse of trees were rediscovered in 1994 in an inaccessible sandstone gorge just 12 kilometres north west of Sydney in Australia. The site is now incorporated into the Wollemi Pine National Park and this tree is one of the World's most protected species.

This tree is planted in recognition of the relationships we enjoy with partners in Australia.

150
WITH
PLYMOUTH
UNIVERSITY



FITZROYA CUPRESSOIDES

Region: Chile/Argentina

Common name: Patagonian Cypress

Plant Family: Cupressaceae

Abundance: rare

IUCN Red List category: endangered

Fully hardy

Cultivation: in sunny sites sheltered from cold, dry winds

Soil: moderately fertile, moist but well-drained

The only known living species in the ancient Fitzroya genus, it grows to become one of the oldest and largest trees in the world in its native habitat in South America (some individuals are thought to be 4000 years old). Charles Darwin encountered specimens of this tree in Patagonia during his voyage around the world on HMS Beagle and named the tree in honour of the Plymouth-based master of the vessel, Captain Robert Fitzroy. Darwin conceived his theory of evolution as a result of observations made during the voyage, eventually leading to the publication of *The Origin of Species* (1859).

This tree is planted in recognition of the relationships we enjoy with partners in Chile and Argentina.

150
WITH
PLYMOUTH
UNIVERSITY



DAVIDIA INVOLUCRATA

Region: China

Common name: Handkerchief tree

Plant Family: Cornaceae

Abundance: rare

IUCN Red List category: low risk, conservation dependent

Fully hardy

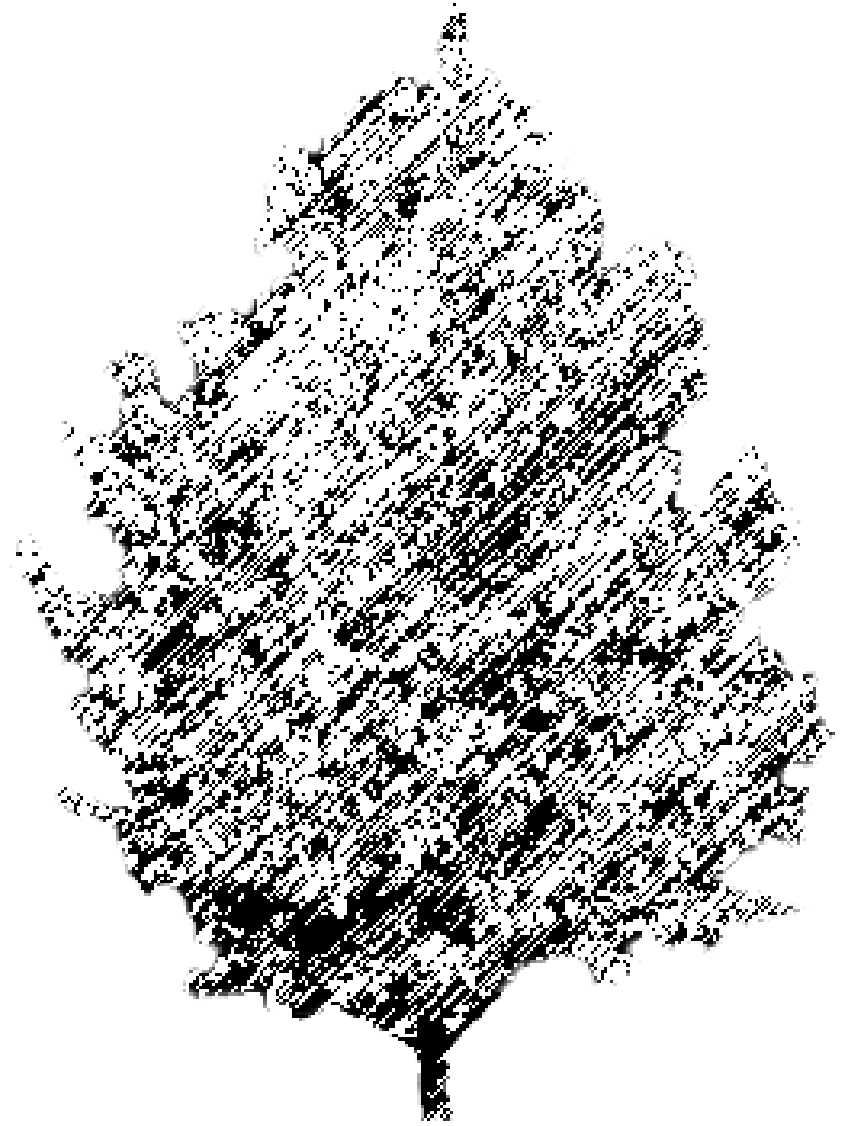
Cultivation: in sun or partial shade, with shelter from strong winds

Soil: fertile, moist but well-drained

First described in China by the French missionary-botanist, Father Armand David, after whom the genus is named, attempts to introduce the species to Europe and North America were thwarted by successive losses of collections in shipwrecks. Eventually, the great plant hunter Ernest Wilson, who was commissioned by Exeter's famous Veitch Nursery, succeeded in bringing viable seed back to the UK in 1901.

The tree is much prized for its spectacular display of pure white bracts that dominate the canopy. The species is now rare in its native China as many forests were clear-felled in the past for charcoal production.

This tree is planted in recognition of the relationships we enjoy with partners in China.



LIRIODENDRON TULIPIFERA

Region: North America

Common name: Tulip Tree

Plant Family: Magnoliaceae

Abundance: common

IUCN Red List category: not assessed

Fully hardy

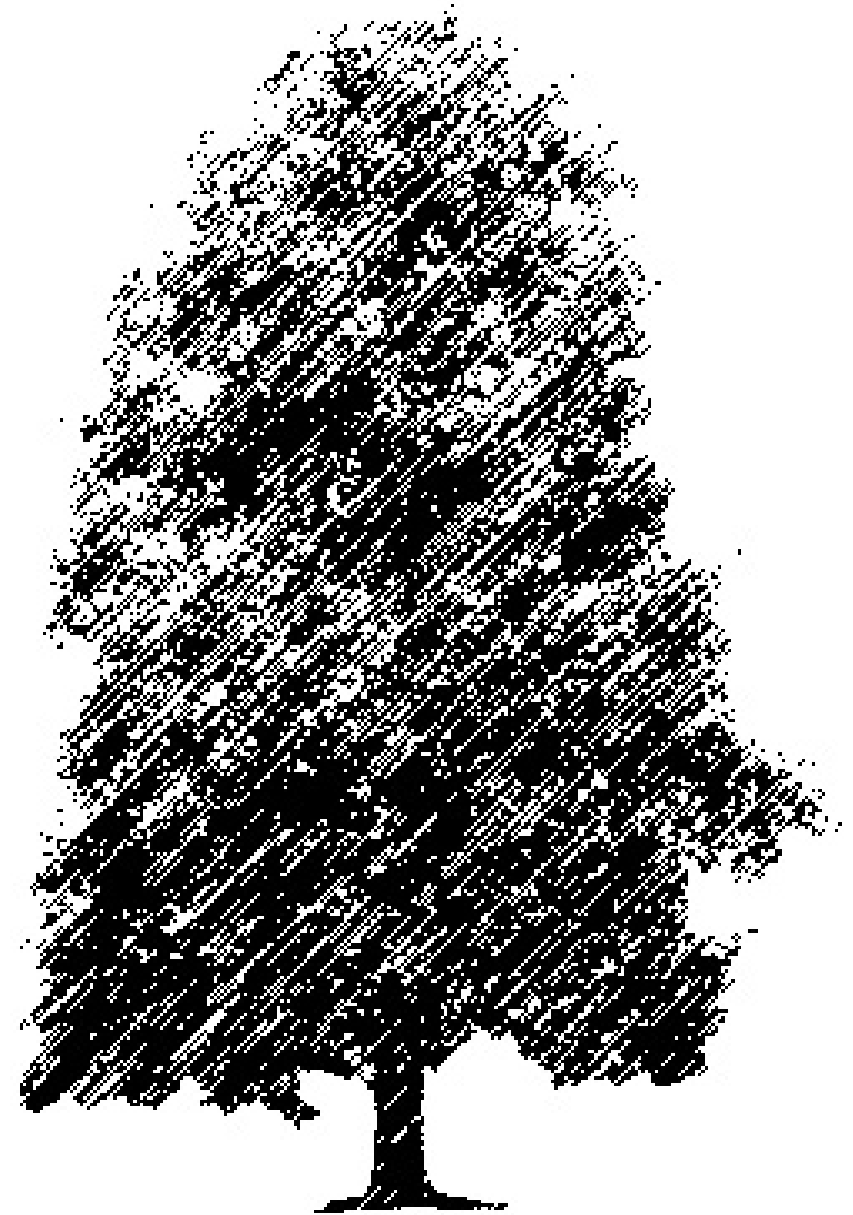
Cultivation: full sun or partially shaded

Soil: slightly acidic, moist but well-drained fertile soil

Once widespread across Europe's temperate zone, the species is now confined to the Eastern seaboard of the USA where it can be long-lived (some individuals are thought to be 400 years old). Native Americans ascribe many medicinal uses to extracts from this tree, but its main use was in the construction of canoes – hence the early European settlers' name of 'canoe wood'. It was introduced into the UK by the London-based plant collector, John Tradescant the younger, in the first part of the 17th century as a fine specimen tree valued for its curiously-shaped leaves and tulip-like flowers.

This tree is planted in recognition of the relationships we enjoy with partners in North America.

150
WITH
PLYMOUTH
UNIVERSITY



LIQUIDAMBER STYRACIFLUA

Region: Mexico/Mesomerica

Common name: Liquidamber

Plant family: Hamamelidaceae

Abundance: common

IUCN Red List category: least concern

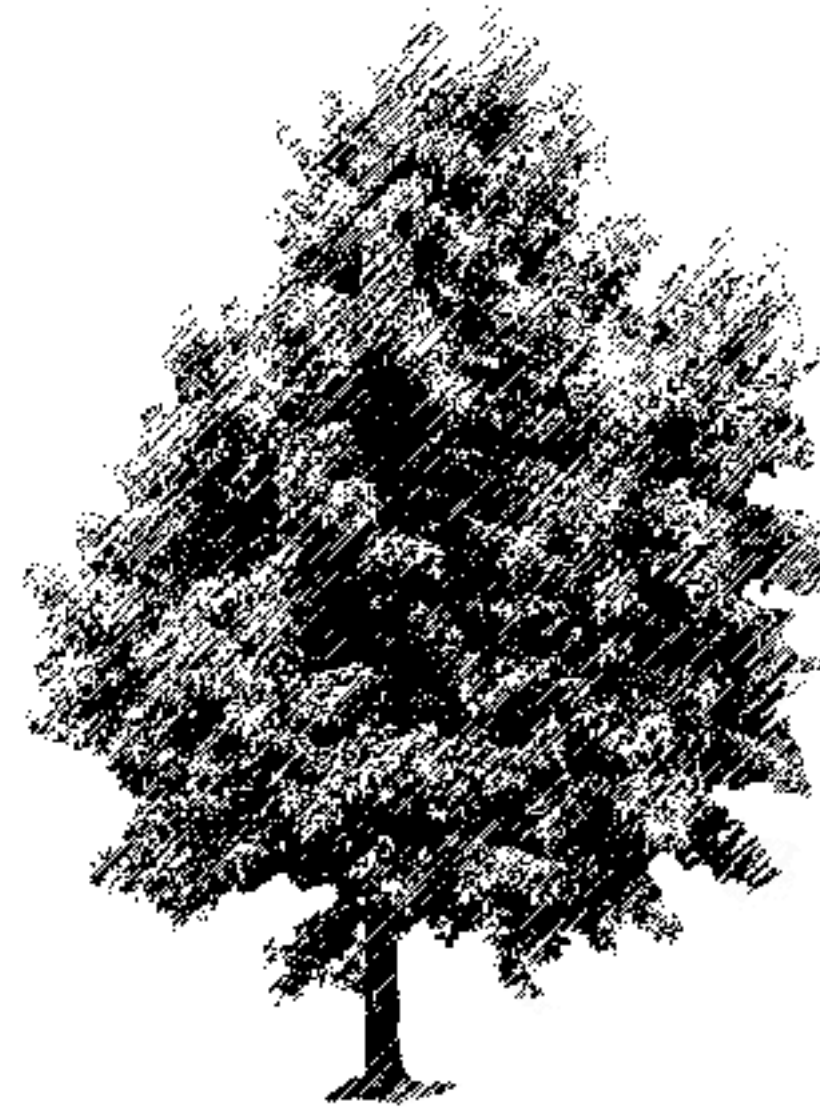
Fully hardy to frost hardy

Cultivation: full sun or partial shade

Soil: moist but well-drained, preferably acid-neutral, moderately fertile

First described by the Spanish naturalist Francisco Hernandez in the middle of the 16th century. It was introduced into the UK by John Banister, a missionary collector, in 1681 and subsequently planted in the palace gardens at Fulham in London. The species was of considerable economic importance in the past for its turpentine-like resin, which reputedly had many medicinal and therapeutic uses.

This tree is planted in recognition of the relationships we enjoy with partners in Mexico and Mesomerica.



STYRAX JAPONICAS

Region: Japan/China/Korea

Common name: Japanese snowbell

Plant Family: Styracaceae

Abundance: common

IUCN Red List category: not assessed

Fully hardy

Cultivation: full sun or partial shade with shelter from cold, desiccating winds

Soil: moist but well-drained, humus-rich, neutral-acid

Introduced into the UK by the Kew plant hunter Richard Oldham in 1862, although the species had been described much earlier by the great German physician and naturalist, Franz Von Siebold. Resins and other extracts have been derived from *Styrax* species from time immemorial and widely used in medicines, perfumes and incenses but its introduction into the UK was because of its attractive snow-white, dangling flowers.

This tree is planted in recognition of the relationships we enjoy with partners in Japan, China and Korea.



ARAUCARIA ARAUCANA

Region: South America

Common name: Monkey puzzle tree

Plant Family: Araucariaceae

Abundance: rare

IUCN Red List category: vulnerable

Fully hardy

Cultivation: open site with shelter from strong, desiccating winds

Soil: moist but well-drained, moderately fertile

The edible seeds from this species have long been prized by indigenous peoples in South American forests and was first described in 1782 by the French botanist, Molina. In 1792, the Scottish plant hunter Archibald Menzies was served a dessert containing Araucaria seeds – some of which he slipped into his pocket with the intention of germinating them on board his ship on the journey home to Britain. Their arrival into the UK caused a sensation and even by 1850 it was still a rarity.

This tree is planted in recognition of the relationships we enjoy with partners in South America.

150
WITH
PLYMOUTH
UNIVERSITY



CATALPA BIGNONIOIDES

Region: North America

Common name: Indian bean tree

Plant Family: Bignoniaceae

Abundance: rare

IUCN Red List category: least concern

Fully hardy

Cultivation: full sun, sheltered from strong winds

Soil: moist but well-drained, fertile

Introduced into the UK in 1726 as a specimen tree prized for its showy flowers – the most spectacular of all the North American trees. Widely planted by the Victorians in parks and formal gardens it has become a favourite ornamental and shade tree although its aromatic leaves are not to everyone's taste. Minor products such as fence posts are also made from its timber.

This tree is planted in recognition of the relationships we enjoy with partners in North America.



FAGUS ORIENTALIS

Region: South East Europe/North Iran/Caucasus/South West Asia

Common name: Oriental beech

Plant Family: Fagaceae

Abundance: regionally common

IUCN Red List category: least concern

Fully hardy

Cultivation: full sun or partial shade

Soil: well-drained, neutral-alkaline

Introduced into the UK in 1910. The wood from this species is close-grained and hard so is much valued for flooring, furniture and construction. Its nuts provide an important source of food for a wide variety of wildlife, but it is commonly planted as a specimen shade tree that provides handsome colours in autumn.

This tree is planted in recognition of the relationships we enjoy with partners in South East Europe, North Iran, Caucasus and South West Asia.



ZELKOVA SERRATA

Region: South Korea/Japan/Taiwan

Common name: Japanese zelkova

Plant Family: Ulmaceae

Abundance: common

IUCN Red List category: not assessed

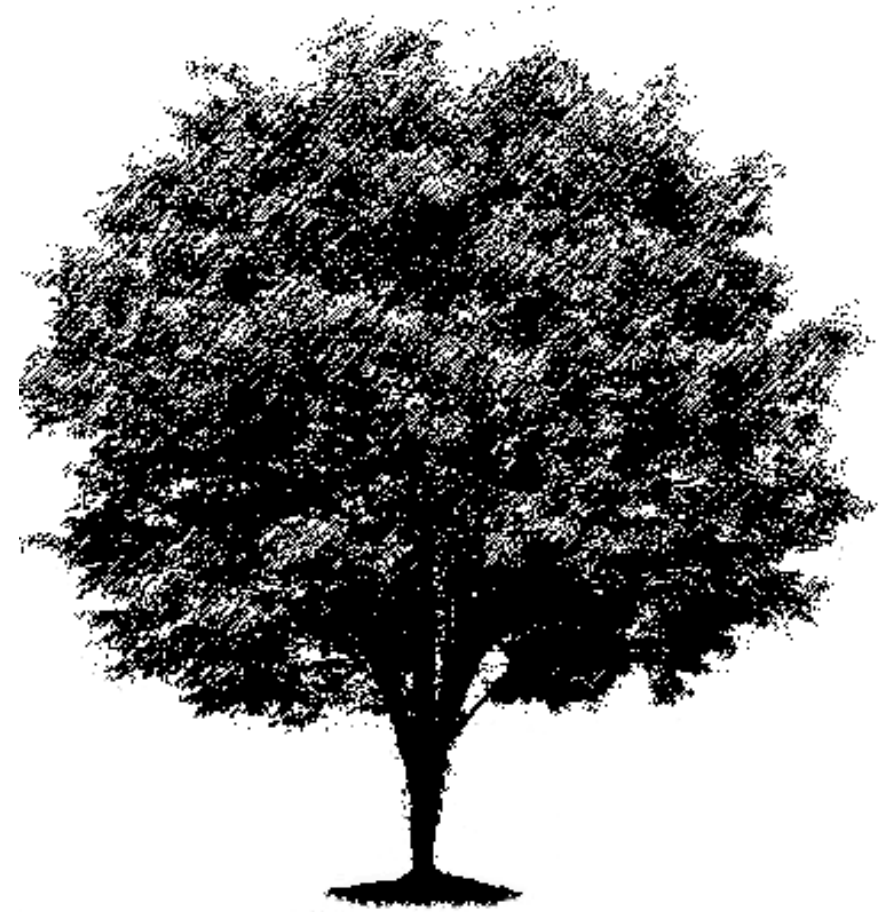
Fully hardy

Cultivation: sun or partial shade, protected from strong, desiccating winds

Soil: deep, fertile, moist but well-drained

Introduced into the UK in the early 18th century this species is a favourite amongst Japanese practitioners of the art of bonsai and is a symbol of a number of Japanese cities. Its wood is also valued in Japan for furniture and musical instruments, especially in the creation of taiko drums and both its leaves and bark are considered to have medicinal properties. In the UK, it is planted as an ornamental tree valued for both its flowers and attractive foliage.

This tree is planted in recognition of the relationships we enjoy with partners in South Korea, Japan and Taiwan.



RHODODENDRON MACABEANUM

Region: North India, Nepal

Common name: Rhododendron

Plant Family: Ericaceae

Abundance: rare

IUCN Red List category: not assessed

Fully hardy

Cultivation: partial sun/shade

Soil: well-drained, leafy humus-rich, acid (pH 4.5-5.5)

Frank Kingdon Ward was one of the great plant hunters of the early 20th century and was responsible for introducing many Rhododendrons to the UK, including this species from one of his Himalayan expeditions in 1928. Its rich yellow flowers rank as one of the finest blooms amongst the Rhododendrons.

This tree is planted in recognition of the relationships we enjoy with partners in North India and Nepal.