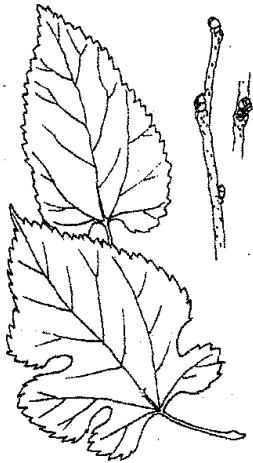


Common or White Mulberry

Morus alba



GENERAL DESCRIPTION: This is a tree that virtually no one plants in the landscape, however it is a tree that is frequently found as a "volunteer" because of seed dissemination by birds who love the sweet purple fruits that most people find obnoxious because they stain the sidewalks, driveways and get on one's shoes which carry the stain indoors. The form of the mulberry is a rounded look with a ragged appearance. The leaves are quite variable in form (heterophylly) with characteristic lobing patterns (or not). The bark is a light orangish-brown on young trees.

HABIT AND SIZE: 30-50' high and as wide but usually a smaller tree. A very dense rounded crown with many close together slim branches and some 'witches broom' tendencies that gives the tree a disorganized look.

LANDSCAPE VALUE: None except for the most adventurous using unique cultivars.

LEAVES: Alternately arranged, simple, either undivided or variously lobed with margins that have serrations or dentations. Ovate to broad-ovate in shape 2-7" long and as much as 6" wide. Tip acute or short acuminate and rounded or cordate (flattened) and oblique at base. Color dark green and smooth on topside, slightly hairy on veins beneath. Petiole 0.5-1" long.

FLOWERS: In small hanging cylindrical catkin-like spikes with male and female flowers on separate plants and these plants having perfect flowers as well (poly-gamodioecious). Flowers white or pinkish, perianth 4 parted, stamens 4 incurved in the bud, ovary small sessile.

FRUIT: Multiple fruit of small fleshy droplets, white, pinkish or purplish violet. Sweet.

BUD: Lateral buds only, to 0.25" long with 3-6 overlapping scales. The sharp to blunt pointed buds are often set oblique to the leaf scar, appressed to the stem, light brown to reddish brown with the edges of the scales finely hairy.

DISEASES AND INSECTS: Bacterial blight on leaves and shoots, leaf spots, cankers, mildews, scales, two-spotted mites and other pests. More problems in the south

HARDINESS AND RANGE: Zones 4-8(9). Imported from China for silkworm trade.

CULTIVARS: *Morus rubra* is similar to *M. alba* but with large papery unlobed leaves. 'Chapparral' and 'Urbana'- fruitless, weeping with dark green leaves, 'Mapleleaf'- a fast-growing fruitless form with maple like leaves.