

Cercidiphyllum - Growing Guide

Growing Cercidiphyllum

This is a genus of two species of deciduous trees from China and Japan. Botanists have had a long running debate as to whether *Cercidiphyllum* should be regarded as Magnoliaceae or if they are related to *Liriodendron* or *Euptelia*. This is because of the nature of their flowers which are tiny and red, emerging before or with the young leaves. Male and female flowers appear on separate trees. Female flowers have no petals and the debate is as to whether, in a much congested form, these are the same floral structure as in *Magnolia* or *Liriodendron* or whether the female flowers are a congested inflorescence made up of many individual flowers and bracts. If the latter interpretation is correct then *Cercidiphyllum* are a very primitive type of flowering plant.

C. japonicum (Katsura tree) and *C. magnificum* are grown primarily for their autumn colours. *C. magnificum* turns a splendid yellow while *C. japonicum* assumes a pale yellow or smoky pink autumn hue. At the same time a very pungent sweet scent is produced which is similar to burnt sugar.



Cercidiphyllum japonicum



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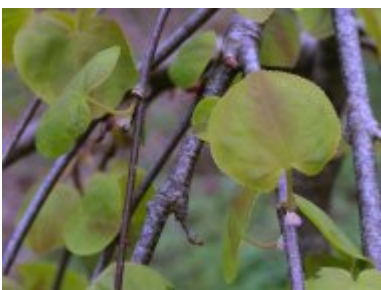
Cercidiphyllum japonicum



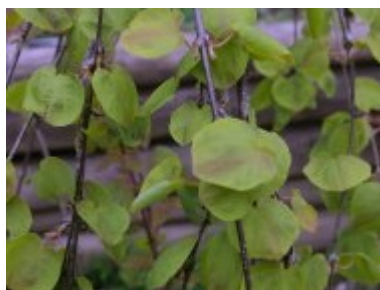
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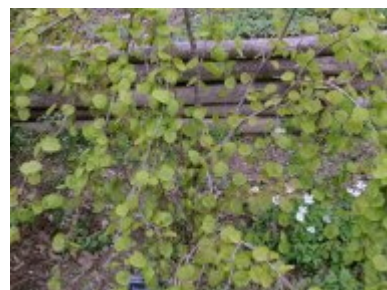
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*Cercidiphyllum
magnificum*



*Cercidiphyllum
magnificum*



*Cercidiphyllum
magnificum*

Today we offer a number of *C. japonicum* varieties with very different leaf forms and habits. *C. japonicum* 'Red Fox' ('Rotfuchs') has dark purple foliage which appears almost black from a distance. This is a slow growing small tree with a very upright habit. *C. japonicum* 'Strawberry' has leaves with a strawberry tint right through the year. *C. japonicum* 'Pendulum' has featured a few times on our Chelsea stand. It has long weeping and drooping branches and larger leaves than other varieties.



Cercidiphyllum
japonicum 'Red Fox'



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Cercidiphyllum
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Cercidiphyllum
japonicum 'Strawberry'

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Cercidiphyllum
japonicum 'Pendulum'



Cercidiphyllum
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Cercidyphyllum
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Cercidyphyllum
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Cercidyphyllum
japonicum 'Pendulum'

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