

## Aralia elata - Growing Guide

### Growing Aralia Elata

Japanese angelica tree

This is a small, suckering, deciduous shrub or tree which should not be underestimated as a garden 'thug'. Its root suckers will appear yards from the original plant and, if these are not cut and dug out, you will soon find yourself with a prickly thicket of varying heights. Several new species of aralia have recently been introduced to the garden at Caerhays and they all have a suckering habit and just as nasty sets of spines on the stems as *A. elata*. For the moment this is the only species of this genus which we offer on the website. Its spines or prickles are not as bad as those on young *Kalopanax* but they are certainly enough to make you wear thick gloves when dealing with them.

*A. elata* leaves are gathered at the top of the stems which can grow to 20-30ft and sometimes become branched. The pinnate leaves are long and graceful achieving a length of up to 4ft with up to 80 or so ovate leaflets which are a paler green underneath. In autumn these turn an attractive yellow with us before they are blown away but, in hotter drier parts of the country, they can produce orange or purple autumn tints.



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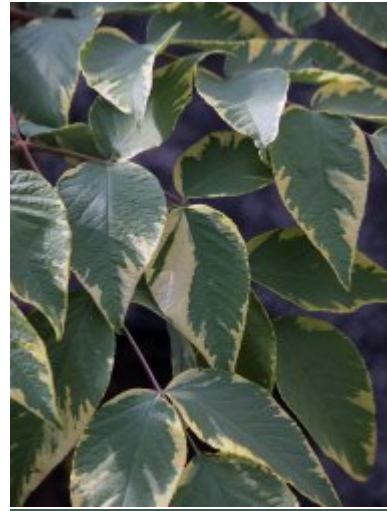
A. elata 'Aureovariegata' is a far less vigorous and usually grafted (onto A. elata) plant which grows to around 6ft. It has great architectural value in a border or in a woodland context where its irregularly margined yellow leaflets stand out against darker evergreens. We have used these admittedly expensive plants on many of our Chelsea stands over the years to showcase their ornamental effect.



A. elata 'Aureovariegata'



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*A. elata* 'Variegata'



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**Burncoose Nurseries: Gwennap, Redruth, Cornwall TR16 6BJ**

Telephone: +44 (0) 1209 860316 Fax: +44 (0) 1209 860011 Email: [info@burncoose.co.uk](mailto:info@burncoose.co.uk)

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