

Koelreuteria - Growing Guide

Growing Koelreuteria Paniculata

Commonly known as 'Golden-Rain Tree'

A huge flowering tree of this Chinese species was quite the best thing in a Northamptonshire garden a couple of years ago proving, beyond any doubt, that it is fully hardy.

This deciduous spreading and slightly drooping tree grows to 40 or more feet in the UK. Its leaves are 6-18in long and pinnate with seven to fifteen leaflets on each stalk. The flowers are yellow and appear in large terminal panicles of up to 12in in length in July and August. After flowering three valved capsules or bladder-like seeds pods develop turning pink and red when ripe.

The tree requires full sun and this will help both its ability to flower prodigiously and to produce a wonderful yellow autumn display of colour.

It likes a good loamy well drained soil and is most easily propagated from its seeds which can be sown in the cold frame in the autumn.

We have found that *K. paniculata* are slow to get going when first planted in the garden. 'Gaunt' is the description in one reference book. Therefore you need a little patience and TLC to get the tree away.



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