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# Ginkgo biloba

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Often known as the 'Living fossil tree' where its lineage can be traced over 250 millions years ago across all of Europe, Greenland and the USA. This was during the Jurassic period, but due to glacier movement its population was reduced to a small location within China. Because it has no living relatives, it is classed in its own division as Ginkgophyta, which is neither broadleaf or conifer.

A unique tree which can live over one thousand years, and can grow up to a staggering 35m tall, with some specimens in China standing 50m tall.

Prised for its stunning autumn colour, the distinct, fan shaped leaves have two primary veins that spread out to the leaf's edge. This causes a spilt down the centre of the leaves providing the name biloba, meaning 'bis' as in two, and 'loba' for the spilt nature of the leaf. A vibrant, lush green during the summer, but come autumn, its foliage melts into deep, succulent shades of saffron gold. During the autumn, it is known for Buddhists to meditate under its falling leaves of aurous colour, as it slowly blankets the area in its beauty.



The Ginkgo is highly tolerant of drought, air pollution, increased climate temperature, and storm water run off. It has a history of continued resistance to disease, with insect resistant wood, making it the perfect choice for difficult urban locations and climate change applications. Its deep rooting system, combined with its strong branch structure, make it resistant to wind and snow damage.



In fact, the tree is so hardy that it is literally bombproof. In August 1945 during the bombing of Hiroshima, the Ginkgo trees located there were scorched beyond recognition, and their branches completely stripped away. Yet... the inside cambium layer survived, and they continued to grow and survive. These trees became known as 'Hibakujumoku' which translates literally as bombed trees, but are often known as survivor trees.

The female of the species grow fruit that falls in the autumn, and is renowned for its pungent, overpowering aroma, which was originally used to attract dinosaurs. These are highly valued in Asia, and are the key ingredient to a prized dish called Buddhas Delight.

At Wyevale, we grow Ginkgo both in field production as rootball, and in our container nursery.

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