

## *Platanus ×acerifolia*

### London Planetree

London Planetree got its name from extensive use in the city of London, where it is one of the few survivors of the coal-polluted air. No other shade tree has been more widely planted in cities worldwide than *Platanus ×acerifolia* (a hybrid of *P. orientalis* × *P. occidentalis*). It is a massive tree with wide-spreading branches, a fact belied by its tight pyramidal youthful outline. The cream- to olive-colored bark is one of the winter landscape's bright beacons. The dark green leaves, 6 to 7 in. long and 8 to 10 in. wide, turn yellow-brown in autumn. I have not seen a soil condition that this tree will not tolerate—wet, dry, acid, and alkaline are all acceptable. Anthracnose kills young leaves, especially in moist weather. Stems also die back as a result of anthracnose, resulting in a "brooming" effect. *Platanus ×acerifolia* is certainly more resistant than *P. occidentalis*, however. Use for street plantings, commercial sites, campuses, golf courses, or any large area. In finest form, it is a beautiful and imposing specimen tree. Grows 70 to 100 ft. high, 65 to 80 ft. wide. Zones 4 to 8(9).

**Cultivars and Varieties.** Several anthracnose-resistant cultivars are available, including 'Bloodgood', which is one of the most common in commerce, 'Columbia', 'Liberty', and 'Yarwood'.



*Platanus ×acerifolia*, London Planetree



*Platanus ×acerifolia* bark



*Platanus ×acerifolia* creating an elegant allée at the Jardin des Plantes, Paris