

## *Ginkgo biloba* 'Fairmont' 'Fairmont' Maidenhair Tree<sup>1</sup>

Edward F. Gilman and Dennis G. Watson<sup>2</sup>

### INTRODUCTION

This male cultivar of *Ginkgo* is practically pest-free, resistant to storm damage, and casts dense shade (Fig. 1). The tree grows to at least 50 feet tall but the original tree in Fairmont Park, Philadelphia has a spread of only about 15 to 18 feet and resembles a fat, billowy column or oval. The dense crown makes it suitable as a screen or noise buffer. It makes a durable street tree where there is enough overhead vertical space to accommodate the large size. It has good usefulness as a city tree especially where there is narrow overhead space. There are other cultivars with narrow upright crowns including 'Princeton Sentry' and 'Fastigiata'. *Ginkgo* tolerates most soil, including compacted, and alkaline. The tree is easily transplanted and has a vivid yellow fall color which is second to none in brilliance, even in the south. However, leaves fall quickly and the fall color show is short. Unlike the species, the tree does not set fruit.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Scientific name:** *Ginkgo biloba* 'Fairmont'

**Pronunciation:** GINK-go bye-LOE-buh

**Common name(s):** 'Fairmont' Maidenhair Tree, 'Fairmont' *Ginkgo*

**Family:** *Ginkgoaceae*

**USDA hardiness zones:** 5 through 8A (Fig. 2)

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Uses:** Bonsai; wide tree lawns (>6 feet wide); medium-sized tree lawns (4-6 feet wide); recommended for buffer strips around parking lots or for median strip plantings in the highway; specimen; sidewalk cutout (tree pit); residential street tree; tree

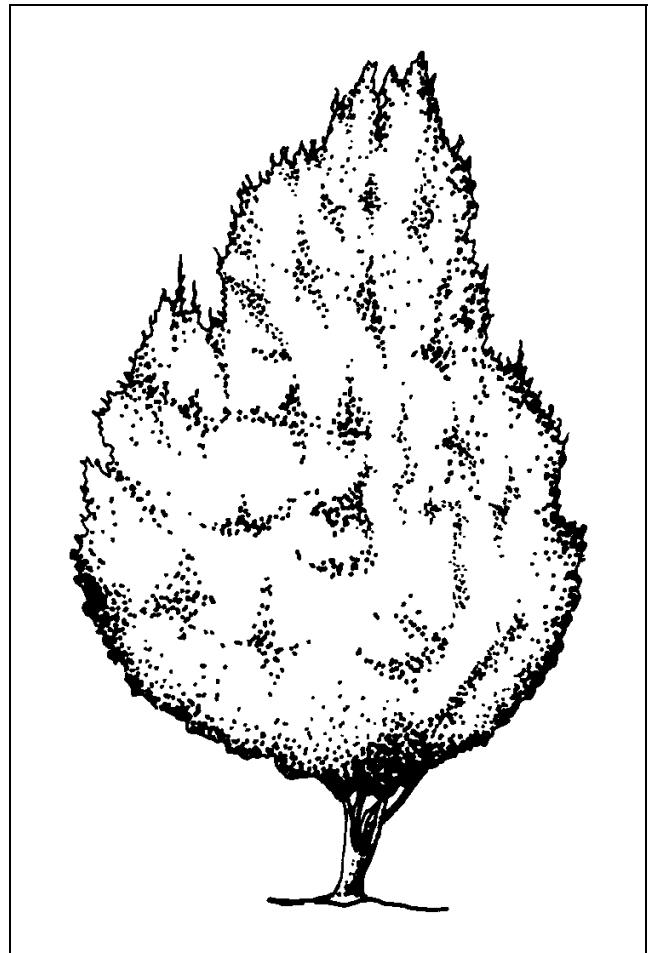


Figure 1. Middle-aged 'Fairmont' Maidenhair Tree.

has been successfully grown in urban areas where air pollution, poor drainage, compacted soil, and/or drought are common

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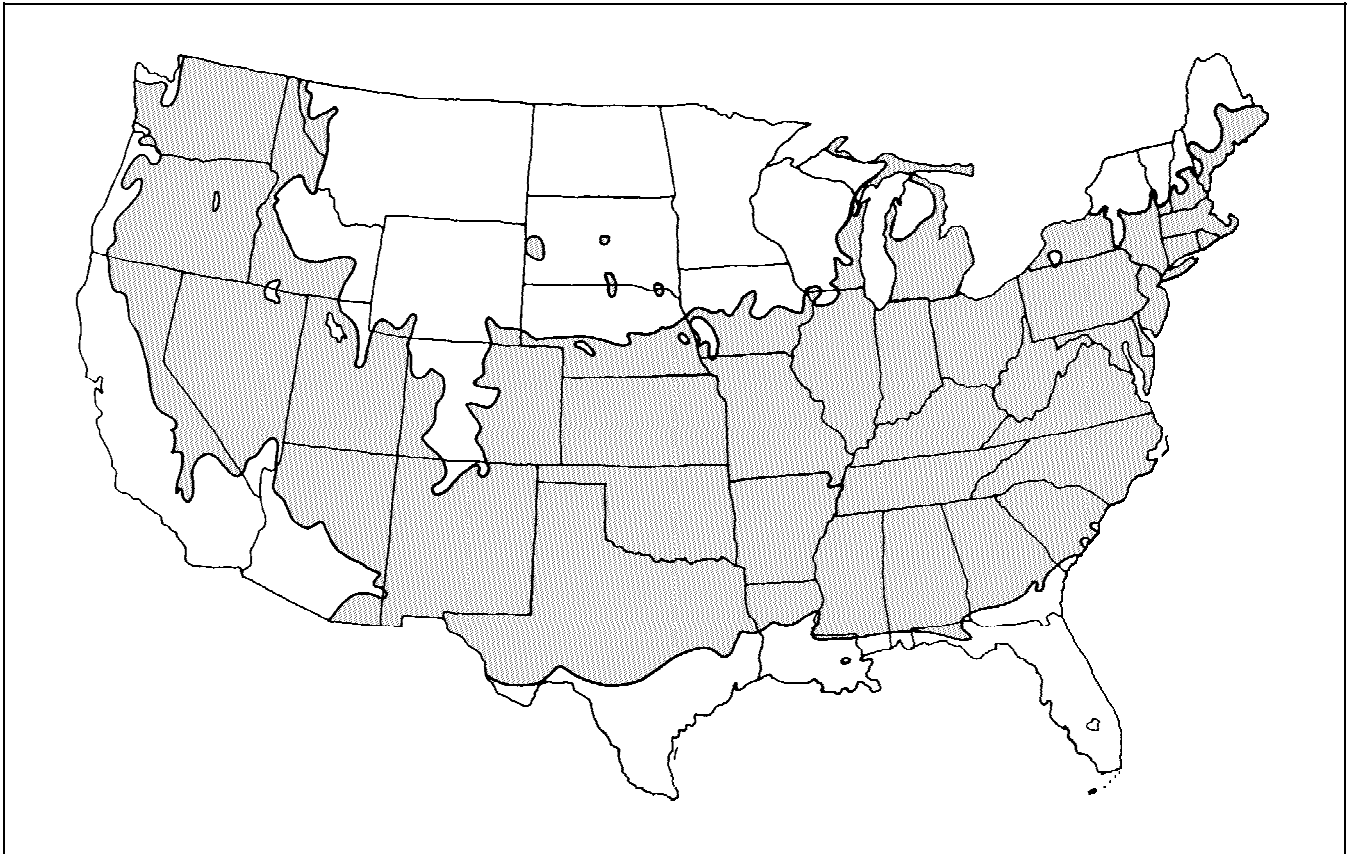


Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Availability:** somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the tree

**Fall characteristic:** showy

### DESCRIPTION

**Height:** 50 to 75 feet

**Spread:** 15 to 25 feet

**Crown uniformity:** symmetrical canopy with a regular (or smooth) outline, and individuals have more or less identical crown forms

**Crown shape:** columnar; oval; upright

**Crown density:** dense

**Growth rate:** slow

**Texture:** medium

### Flower

**Flower color:** green

**Flower characteristics:** pleasant fragrance; inconspicuous and not showy; spring flowering

### Fruit

There is no fruit on this tree.

### Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** alternate (Fig. 3)

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** lobed

**Leaf shape:** fan-shaped

**Leaf venation:** parallel; palmate

**Leaf type and persistence:** deciduous

**Leaf blade length:** 2 to 4 inches

**Leaf color:** green

**Fall color:** yellow

### Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/bark/branches:** grow mostly upright and will not droop; showy trunk; should be grown with a single leader; no thorns

**Pruning requirement:** needs little pruning to develop a strong structure

**Breakage:** resistant

**Current year twig color:** brown; gray

**Current year twig thickness:** medium; thick

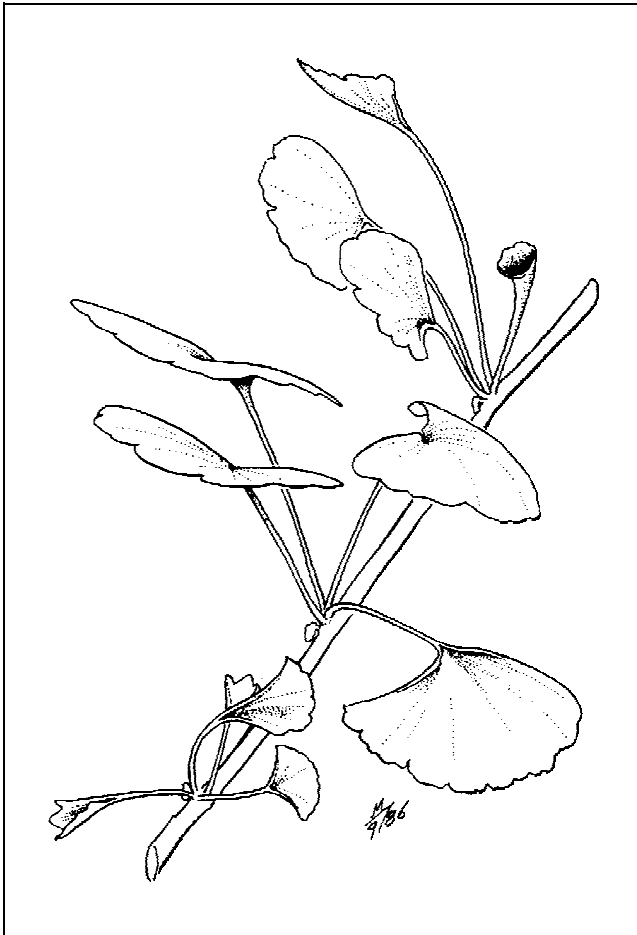


Figure 3. Foliage of 'Fairmont' Maidenhair Tree.

### Culture

**Light requirement:** tree grows in part shade/part sun;  
tree grows in full sun

**Soil tolerances:** clay; loam; sand; acidic;  
occasionally wet; alkaline; well-drained

**Drought tolerance:** high

**Aerosol salt tolerance:** moderate

**Soil salt tolerance:** poor

### Other

**Roots:** surface roots are usually not a problem

**Winter interest:** tree has winter interest due to unusual form, nice persistent fruits, showy winter trunk, or winter flowers

**Outstanding tree:** tree has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more

**Invasive potential:** little, if any, potential at this time

**Verticillium wilt susceptibility:** not known to be susceptible

**Pest resistance:** no pests are normally seen on the tree

### USE AND MANAGEMENT

Ginkgo may grow extremely slow for several years after planting, but will then pick up and grow at a moderate rate, particularly if it receives an adequate supply of water and some fertilizer. But do not overwater or plant in a poorly-drained area. Keep turf away from several feet around the trunk to help the tree become established. Very tolerant of urban soils and pollution, Ginkgo could be used more in USDA hardiness zone 7 but is not recommended in central and southern Texas or Oklahoma due to summer heat. Adapted for use as a street tree, even in confined soil spaces. Some early pruning to form one central leader and to eliminate vigorous upright branches may be helpful.

There are several other cultivars: 'Autumn Gold' - male, fruitless, bright gold fall color and rapid growth rate; 'Fastigiata' - male, fruitless, upright growth; 'Laciniata' - leaf margins deeply divided; 'Lakeview' - male, fruitless, compact broad conical form; 'Mayfield' - male, upright fastigate (columnar) growth; 'Pendula' - pendent branches; 'Princeton Sentry' - male, fruitless, fastigate, narrow conical crown for restricted overhead spaces, popular, 65 feet tall, available in some nurseries; 'Santa Cruz' - umbrella-shaped, 'Variegata' - variegated leaves.

Propagation is by seed or grafting males.

### Pests and Diseases

This tree is pest-free and considered resistant to gypsy moth.