



Ginkgo biloba 'Princeton Sentry' 'Princeton Sentry' Maidenhair Tree¹

Edward F. Gilman and Dennis G. Watson²

INTRODUCTION

This male cultivar of *Ginkgo* is practically pest-free, resistant to storm damage, and casts light shade due to the narrow crown (Fig. 1). It has a dense, fat columnar form growing to about 65 feet tall with a 15 to 20-foot-wide crown. It makes a durable street tree where there is limited vertical overhead space. Other narrow upright cultivars include 'Fairmont' 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.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Scientific name: *Ginkgo biloba* 'Princeton Sentry'

Pronunciation: GINK-go bye-LOE-buh

Common name(s): 'Princeton Sentry' Maidenhair Tree, 'Princeton Sentry' Ginkgo

Family: *Ginkgoaceae*

USDA hardiness zones: 3B 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; sidewalk cutout (tree pit); residential street tree; tree has been successfully grown in urban areas where air pollution, poor drainage, compacted soil, and/or drought are common

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

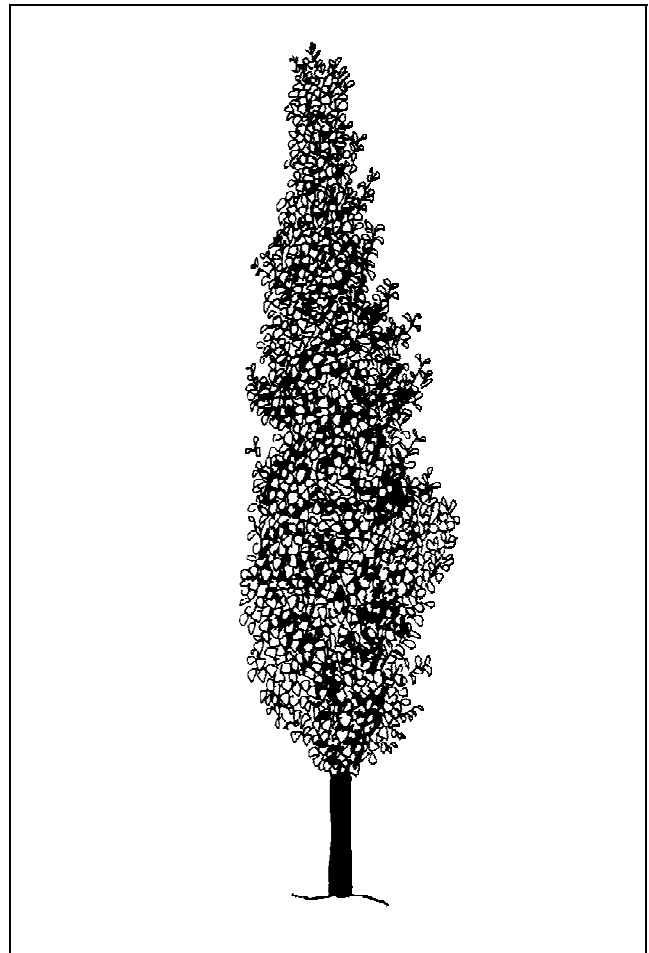


Figure 1. Middle-aged 'Princeton Sentry' Maidenhair Tree.

1. This document is adapted from Fact Sheet ST-278, a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: November 1993.
2. Edward F. Gilman, associate professor, Environmental Horticulture Department; Dennis G. Watson, associate professor, Agricultural Engineering Department, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville FL 32611.

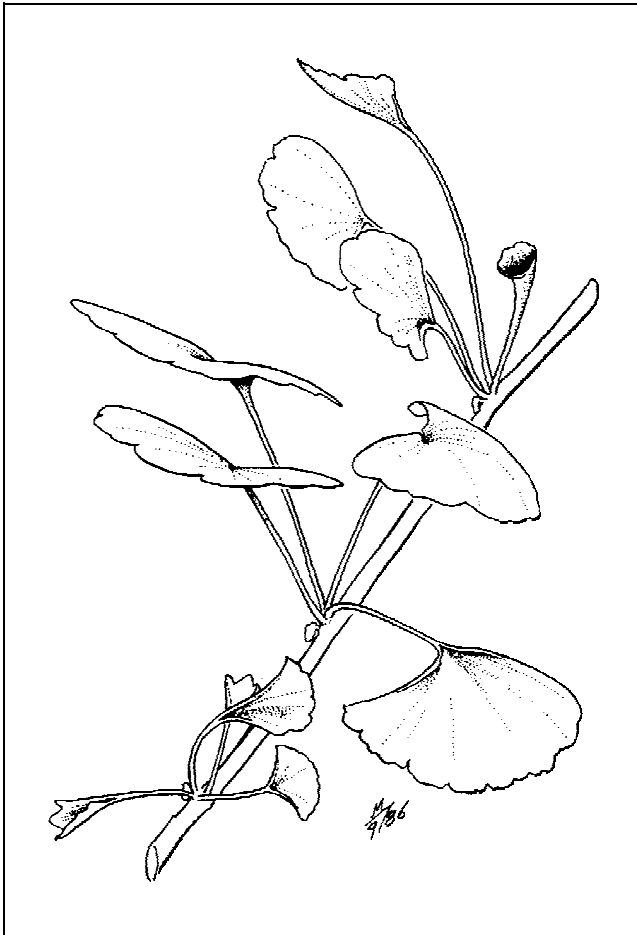


Figure 2. Foliage of 'Princeton Sentry' Maidenhair Tree.

DESCRIPTION

Height: 50 to 65 feet

Spread: 15 to 20 feet

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

Crown shape: columnar; upright

Crown density: dense

Growth rate: fast

Texture: medium

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

Fall characteristic: showy

Flower

Flower color: green

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

Fruit

There is no fruit on this tree.

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

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. 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 is helpful.

There are several other cultivars: 'Autumn Gold' - male, fruitless, bright gold fall color and rapid growth rate; 'Fairmont' - upright, oval to pyramidal form; '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; '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.