

# *Koelreuteria paniculata* ‘Fastigiata’: ‘Fastigiata’ Goldenrain Tree<sup>1</sup>

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## Introduction

This cultivar of goldenrain tree grows 30 feet tall with a four- to six-foot spread. Although the species has a reputation for being weak wooded, this selection may stay together due to the tight, compact growth habit. It is rarely attacked by pests and grows in a wide range of soils, including high pH soils. Goldenrain tree tolerates dryness and casts little shade because of the narrow growth habit. It would make a good tree particularly where overhead or soil space is limited, due to its narrow crown and adaptive abilities. The tree grows moderately and bears few flowers. It is not as showy as *Koelreuteria bipinnata* but is much more cold-tolerant. However, it is less cold tolerant than the species. The species *Koelreuteria elegans* can become invasive, but this cultivar has not been assessed. Nonetheless, it is best to use it with caution.

## General Information

**Scientific name:** *Koelreuteria paniculata*

**Pronunciation:** kole-roo-TEER-ee-uh  
pan-ick-yoo-LAY-tuh

**Common name(s):** ‘Fastigiata’ goldenrain tree

**Family:** *Sapindaceae*

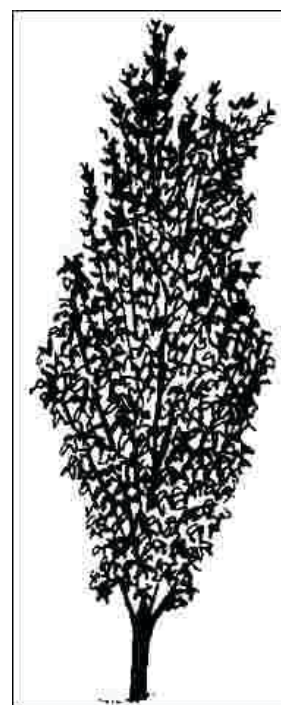


Figure 1. Middle-aged *Koelreuteria paniculata* ‘Fastigiata’: ‘Fastigiata’ goldenrain tree.

**USDA hardiness zones:** 5B through 9B (Figure 2)

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Invasive potential:** not assessed/incomplete assessment

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**Uses:** street without sidewalk; specimen; sidewalk cutout (tree pit); tree lawn 3–4 feet wide; tree lawn 4–6 feet wide; tree lawn > 6 ft wide; urban tolerant; highway median

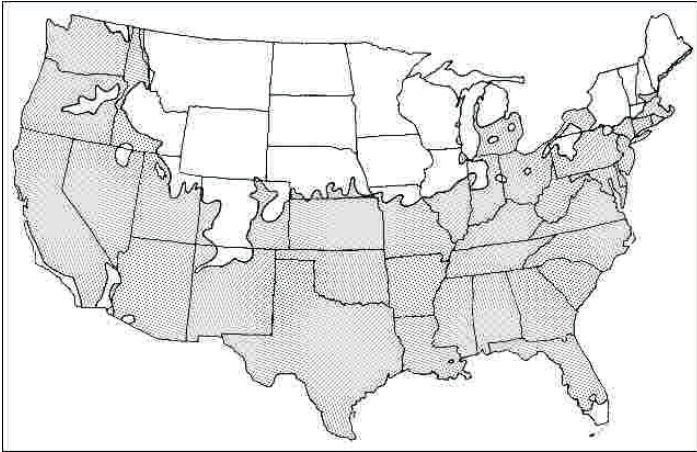


Figure 2. Range

## Description

**Height:** 20 to 30 feet

**Spread:** 4 to 7 feet

**Crown uniformity:** symmetrical

**Crown shape:** columnar, upright/erect

**Crown density:** moderate

**Growth rate:** moderate

**Texture:** coarse

## Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** alternate (Figure 3)

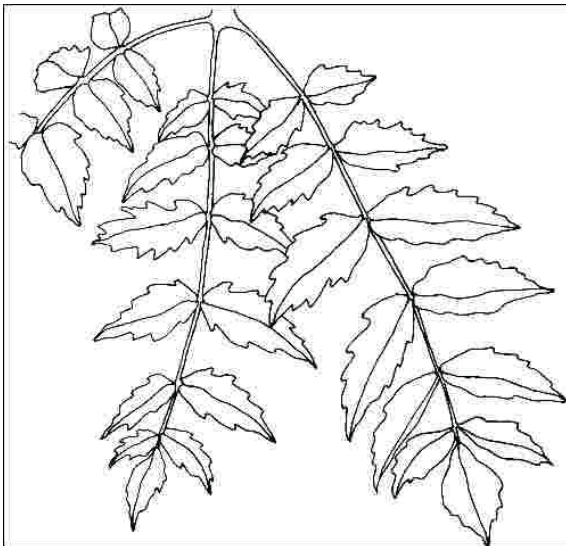


Figure 3. Foliage

**Leaf type:** even-pinnately compound, odd-pinnately compound

**Leaf margin:** lobed, incised, serrate

**Leaf shape:** ovate, oblong

**Leaf venation:** pinnate

**Leaf type and persistence:** deciduous

**Leaf blade length:** less than 2 inches, 2 to 4 inches

**Leaf color:** green

**Fall color:** yellow

**Fall characteristic:** showy

## Flower

**Flower color:** yellow

**Flower characteristics:** very showy

## Fruit

**Fruit shape:** oval, elongated

**Fruit length:** 1 to 3 inches

**Fruit covering:** dry or hard

**Fruit color:** green, brown

**Fruit characteristics:** does not attract wildlife; showy; fruit/leaves not a litter problem

## Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/bark/branches:** branches don't droop; not showy; typically one trunk; thorns

**Pruning requirement:** needed for strong structure

**Breakage:** resistant

**Current year twig color:** brown

**Current year twig thickness:** thick

**Wood specific gravity:** unknown

## Culture

**Light requirement:** full sun

**Soil tolerances:** sand; loam; clay; acidic; alkaline; well-drained; extended flooding

**Drought tolerance:** high

**Aerosol salt tolerance:** moderate

## Other

**Roots:** not a problem

**Winter interest:** no

**Outstanding tree:** yes

**Ozone sensitivity:** unknown

**Verticillium wilt susceptibility:** susceptible

**Pest resistance:** resistant to pests/diseases

## Use and Management

The root system is coarse with only a few but large roots, so transplant when young or from containers. Do not transplant in the fall as success rate is reportedly limited. Considered a city tolerant tree due to tolerance to air pollution and ability to withstand drought, heat and alkaline soils. It also tolerates some salt spray but requires well-drained soil.

## Pests

Occasional attacks by scale may be seen. Sprays of horticultural oil help control overwinter stages. Boxelder bug can be a menace.

## Diseases

*Koelreuteria* is subject to few diseases. A canker causes dead and sunken areas on the bark. Coral pink fruiting bodies develop on the diseased bark. Prune out infected branches and fertilize to maintain tree health.

Verticillium wilt attacks *Koelreuteria*. The disease causes wilting and death of leaves on infected branches. Eventually the entire tree may be killed. Fertilize to stimulate growth. There are no chemical controls.