

# *Ptelea trifoliata* 'Glauca': 'Glauca' Common Hoptree<sup>1</sup>

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## Introduction

This cultivar of the deciduous North American native tree reaches 15 feet in height with a spread of 10 to 15 feet and forms a broad, rounded canopy over a slender, grey trunk. The trifoliate, four- to six-inch-long leaves are glaucous blue-green in summer, turning yellow in fall before dropping. Inconspicuous greenish-white flowers appear in terminal clusters in June and July, their presence easily detected by the delicious orange blossom-like perfume. The blooms are followed by interesting, one-inch-diameter, flattened, tan “wafers” which will persist on the tree if not first consumed by wildlife. In the past, this bitter fruit was used as a substitute for hops in brewing beer.

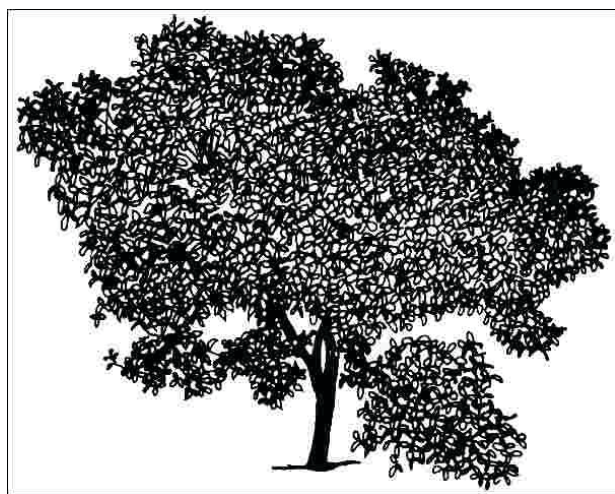


Figure 1. Middle-aged *Ptelea trifoliata* 'Glauca': 'Glauca' common hoptree.

## General Information

**Scientific name:** *Ptelea trifoliata*

**Pronunciation:** TEE-lee-uh try-fole-ee-AY-tah

**Common name(s):** 'Glauca' common hoptree, 'Glauca' wafer-ash

**Family:** *Rutaceae*

**USDA hardiness zones:** 4A through 9A (Figure 2)

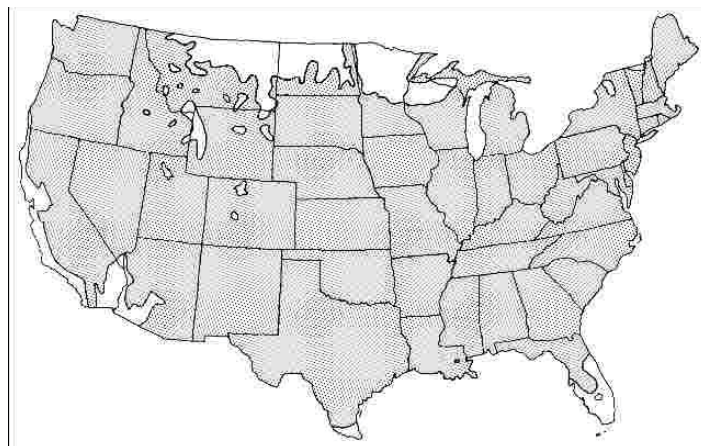


Figure 2. Range

**Origin:** native to North America

**Invasive potential:** native cultivar

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**Uses:** specimen; deck or patio; container or planter

## Description

**Height:** 5 to 15 feet

**Spread:** 10 to 15 feet

**Crown uniformity:** irregular

**Crown shape:** round, vase

**Crown density:** moderate

**Growth rate:** moderate

**Texture:** medium

## Foliage

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

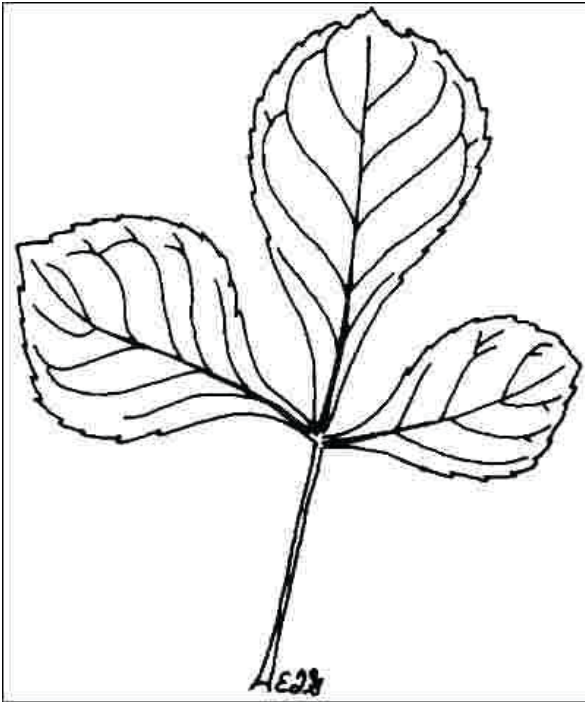


Figure 3. Foliage

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

**Leaf margin:** entire, serrate

**Leaf shape:** ovate, elliptic (oval), oblong

**Leaf venation:** brachidodrome, pinnate

**Leaf type and persistence:** deciduous

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

**Leaf color:** blue or blue-green

**Fall color:** yellow

**Fall characteristic:** showy

## Flower

**Flower color:** white/cream/gray

**Flower characteristics:** not showy

## Fruit

**Fruit shape:** round

**Fruit length:** 0.5 to 1 inch

**Fruit covering:** dry or hard

**Fruit color:** brown

**Fruit characteristics:** attracts squirrels/mammals; showy; fruit/leaves not a litter problem

## Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/bark/branches:** branches droop; not showy; typically multi-trunked; thorns

**Pruning requirement:** needed for strong structure

**Breakage:** resistant

**Current year twig color:** brown

**Current year twig thickness:** medium

**Wood specific gravity:** unknown

## Culture

**Light requirement:** full sun, partial sun or partial shade, shade tolerant

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

**Drought tolerance:** high

**Aerosol salt tolerance:** unknown

## Other

**Roots:** not a problem

**Winter interest:** no

**Outstanding tree:** yes

**Ozone sensitivity:** unknown

**Verticillium wilt susceptibility:** unknown

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

## Use and Management

One of a few small trees which performs well in deep shade. Plant it close to the patio or deck or locate it in a shrub border for fragrant flowers and yellow fall color display. Its native habitat is dry, rocky upland sites making it well-suited for non-irrigated landscapes.

Naturally found in the shade along the edges of woods, especially on rocky slopes in the Mississippi Valley, wafer-ash can be planted in full sun to deep shade and prefers well-drained, fertile, moist soil. While plants are better off if not exposed to extremes of wetness or dryness, wafer-ash is drought-tolerant once established. Transplants readily from the field.

Other cultivars include: 'Aurea' with yellow foliage through the spring and into the summer.

Propagation is by budding, layering, or grafting.

## Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern although it is occasionally bothered by tree-hoppers, leaf spot, and rust.