



# RUSSIAN MULBERRY

*Morus alba tatarica*

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## Native Range

Despite its name, Russian mulberry is native to China and has been extensively planted in Kansas and is considered to be naturalized to the state.

## Mature Size

It is a small dense, round-topped tree reaching a mature height of 15 to 20 feet with a crown spread equal to the height.

## Growth Rate

This plant will grow 12 to 24 inches per year.

## Leaves, Stems and Fruit

Lobed and irregularly lobed leaves often occur on the same tree. They are simple, alternate along the stem, 3 to 5 inches long and 2 to 4 inches wide with a dark green color. Flowering occurs in the spring with male and female flowers on separate trees. Fruit is a multiple drupe, similar to a blackberry, varying in color from red to white ripening from June through August. Bark is dark brown tinged with red or yellow becoming plate-like or scaly with age.

## Use

### Windbreaks

Russian mulberry is an excellent windbreak species throughout the state. Because of its small size, it is used best as an outer row on multi-row windbreaks. It also is used as a single row field windbreak.

### Wildlife

With its dense crown and heavy fruit crops, the Russian mulberry provides both summer food and year-round cover. It is an excellent wildlife plant used by a variety of birds and mammals.

### Firewood

Russian mulberry can be incorporated in firewood plantings especially where poor, droughty soils limit use of more desirable species. The wood is dense and has a high heat value.

## Adaptation

Statewide.

## Soil

Russian mulberry is a very hardy and drought tolerant tree. It can grow on most soils throughout the state.

**Spacing**

Russian mulberry should be spaced 8 to 12 feet within rows and 12 to 18 feet between rows in multiple row windbreaks. Spacing in firewood plantings can vary from 6 x 10 feet to 12 x 12 feet.

**Culture**

One-year-old, bare-root seedlings, 12 to 18 inches tall are used in tree plantings. This is the hardiest of the mulberries. Good survival and growth rate can be expected with proper site preparation and weed control.

**Pests**

There are no major insect or disease problems.