

# *Ginkgo biloba* L.

**Standardized Common Name:** Ginkgo

**Other Common Names:** Kew Tree, Maidenhair Tree

**Family:** Ginkgoaceae

**Taxonomy:** There is only one species in the genus *Ginkgo* (for which *Salisburia* is a synonym). A gymnosperm and a living fossil, it is the only surviving species in its family, order, class, and division (a taxonomic unit equivalent in rank to the whole of the flowering plants). It is native to China, but is now found only in cultivation and appears to be extinct in the wild.

**Description:** Trees to 40 m tall and 4 m in diameter. Crown ovoid to obovoid, asymmetric. Long shoots and short spurs present, the latter to 3 cm long. Bark gray, with flattened ridges. Leaves deciduous, alternate, light to medium green fading to yellow, fan-shaped, broader than long, (2–)5–12(–20) cm broad; base cuneate; apex truncate with a central notch to deeply cleft; young leaves sometimes slightly pubescent; venation dichotomously branching, appearing parallel; petioles usually longer than blade, upper surface grooved, with tuft of hairs at the base. Plants dioecious. Staminate cones catkinlike, without bracts. Ovules borne in pairs on long stalks. Seeds to 3.5 cm long, ellipsoid, with fleshy, smelly outer layer, orange and glaucous with silvered appearance (hence the Chinese name *yin-xing*, “silver apricot”).

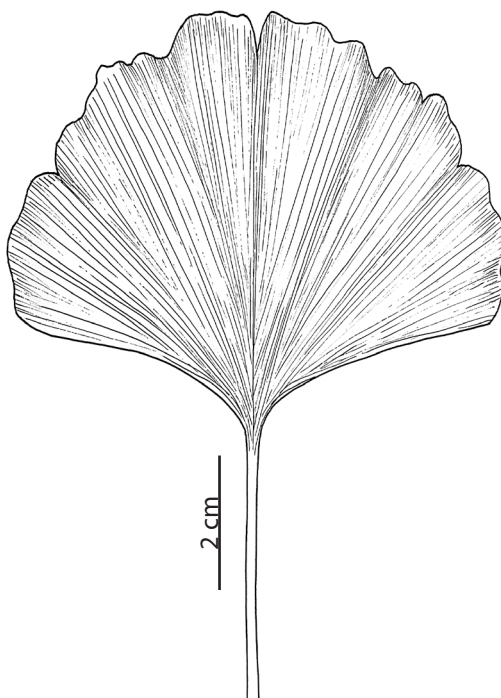
**Parts in Commerce:** Leaves

## Identification:

- Leaves fan-shaped, (2–)5–12(–20) cm broad, with tapering cuneate base
- Center of apex notched or more or less cleft and dividing blade into distinct lobes
- Venation looks parallel, branching dichotomously
- Blade hairless or with few small hairs
- Petiole long, with upper surface grooved

## Reference:

Fu L, Li N, Mill RR. Ginkgoaceae. In: Wu Z-Y, Raven PH, eds. *Flora of China*. Vol. 4. Beijing: Science Press and St. Louis, MO: Missouri Botanical Garden Press; 1999:8.



**Figure 30:** *Ginkgo biloba* leaf.