



European Hackberry

Scientific Name: *Celtis australis*



Summary:

The European hackberry is a tough, good-looking shade tree that's been planted around Mediterranean towns and villages for centuries. Native to southern Europe, North Africa, and parts of Asia, it's loved for its broad canopy, cooling shade, and ability to thrive in hot, dry climates. At maturity, it can reach 40 to 70 feet tall, forming a wide, rounded crown that makes it perfect for streets, parks, and large yards. The leaves are long, slender, and

serrated, staying dark green through summer before turning soft yellow in the fall. In spring, the tree produces tiny greenish flowers, followed by small purple-black berries.



One of the best things about the European hackberry is how low-maintenance it is. Once it's established, it doesn't need much water, and it can handle heat, drought, poor soil, and even urban pollution. That makes it a great fit for tough spots where other trees might struggle. While it's not native to California, it adapts really well to similar climates and still supports wildlife like pollinators and seed-eating birds.

When it comes to fire-wise landscaping, since it's deciduous, it drops its leaves in fall and doesn't carry the same fire risk as oily evergreens. Its open canopy also helps keep flames from climbing into the crown if it's pruned and maintained properly.



References:

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