

CHICAGOLAND GROWS[®], INC.

Plant Introduction Program - Plant Release Bulletin #30



Morton Euclid London Planetree – Ovation[™]

Platanus x acerifolia 'Morton Euclid'

A strong central leader, uniform broad pyramidal habit, vigorous growth rate, exquisite exfoliating bark, and good resistance to anthracnose, powdery mildew, and frost cracking makes Ovation[™] a superior selection for the Midwest and comparable climates. Utilize for its excellent adaptability and tolerance to difficult urban conditions.



Chicagoland Grows[®] is a nonprofit corporation of the Chicago Botanic Garden, The Morton Arboretum, and the Ornamental Growers Association of Northern Illinois (OGA).

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Morton Euclid London Planetree – Ovation™

Platanus x acerifolia 'Morton Euclid'

Botanical Name

Platanus x acerifolia 'Morton Euclid'

Common Name

Morton Euclid London Planetree

Family

Platanaceae

Origin

London planetree (*Platanus x acerifolia*) is an interspecific hybrid between the Oriental planetree (*P. orientalis*) and the North American sycamore (*P. occidentalis*). Ovation™ is a selection resulting from a controlled cross made by Dr. George Ware at The Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois, between a selection of *P. orientalis* from the U.S. National Arboretum and an anthracnose-resistant selection of *P. occidentalis* growing at The Morton Arboretum. The original plant of Ovation™ has been observed since 1994. Ovation™ is a sister seedling to Exclamation!™, another planetree selection from the tree breeding program at The Morton Arboretum.

Hardiness

This selection is hardy to USDA Zones 5-8.

General Description and Habit

Ovation™ has a strong central leader and a uniform, broad pyramidal to rounded habit. The branches are fairly upright, and become spreading with age.

Size and Growth Rate

Mature size should approximate 60' tall by 50' wide. The growth rate is fast as a young specimen, up to 3 feet per year, slowing to 1 to 1½ feet per year until maturity.

Culture

Easy to grow and long-lived, Ovation™ has exceptional tolerance to compacted soils, extended flooding or drought, and air pollution, making it an excellent urban tree. Ovation™ is also adaptable to varying soil pH and tolerant of heat. Full sun and good air circulation are recommended for optimal performance. Its ultimate large size and extensive root system suggests it should be planted where it has sufficient long-term growing space.

Ornamental Characteristics

Ovation™ matures quickly into an attractive, large, rounded tree. The coarse, medium-green, deeply lobed foliage cloaks the tree all summer, with an occasional brief display of yellow color in the fall.

Ovation™ develops an attractive exfoliating bark, as expected of planetrees, at an early age. The mottled brown, green, and tan bark peels off in large plates, revealing patches of interior bark in varying shades of cream to white. The massive trunk on a mature specimen with its camouflage-like bark makes for an attractive tree silhouette in winter.

Pest and Disease Problems

Specifically hybridized and selected to be resistant to anthracnose, it also has good resistance to powdery mildew, which, if present, occurs in late summer to early fall. The anthracnose and powdery mildew resistance deters witches-broom development and premature summer defoliation, both of which can detract from growing the native sycamore, *P. occidentalis*.

Landscape Value

London planetrees are noted for their excellent adaptability to difficult urban conditions and Ovation™ is no exception, with a high tolerance to air pollution, poorly draining and compacted soil, heat, and/or drought. Ovation™ is a sizeable landscape tree that can be planted in large urban spaces such as parks, lawns, golf courses, parking-lot islands, median-strip plantings, or as a residential street tree where the planting median is of sufficient size.

Consider Ovation™ as a replacement tree for the native ashes (*Fraxinus*) where the emerald ash borer is becoming a problem; as a substitute for the related sycamore, with its poor disease resistance and premature leaf drop; or as a replacement for Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*), with its issue of heavy seed production and invasiveness.

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The Chicagoland Grows® Plant Introduction Program is dedicated to the evaluation, selection, production, and marketing of recommended and new plant cultivars. Plants selected for the program have proven to be adaptable to the Midwest and are made available to the commercial and retail landscape industry through an international network of growers and propagators.



For more information about Chicagoland Grows®, contact the Plant Introduction Department, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, IL 60022, (847) 835-8301 or visit www.chicagolandgrows.org.