Morton Euclid London Planetree –
Ovation™

Platanus × 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.
Botanical Name
Platanus × acerifolia 'Morton Euclid'

Common Name
Morton Euclid London Planetree

Family
Platanaceae

Origin
London planetree (Platanus × 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.