

Parrotia persica

Persian Ironwood



January 2010

The glorious autumn colours of Persian Ironwood

Parrotia persica is a highly ornamental tree, native to Iran, which makes a great year round feature with something to offer in every season.

In late winter/early spring, when there is little interest amongst other trees, *Parrotia persica* produces its flowers on the bare stems. Similar to witchazel but smaller, the pinkish red flowers are borne in abundant clusters.

Early to leaf in Spring, the foliage is lustrous and green with a wavy edge throughout summer. The autumn brings one of the finest displays to be seen on the nursery, with vibrant hues of yellow, red, orange and purple.

The bark of mature *Parrotia* trees is also an attractive quality. It is smooth but exfoliates in thin scaly plates (like a plane tree) to reveal cream, yellow and greens patches of colour.

Plant Profile

Name: *Parrotia persica*

Common Name: Persian Ironwood

Family: Hamamelidaceae

Height: 8-10m

Demands: Tolerant of most soils, including chalk. Avoid heavy soils. Sun to light shade.

Foliage: Smooth green leaves with a wavy margin

Flower: Clusters of red flowers on bare stems in winter

Bark: Fine plates flake in cream, grey and orange



Clusters of flowers add winter interest

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Deepdale

Parrotia persica was named after the German naturalist Zedriech W. Parrot



Parrotia persica semi mature standards



4-5m multistem with autumn foliage



Umbrella pruned specimen H3-3.5m



Parrotia persica roof trained specimens, 20-25cm girth



4-5m Persian Ironwood multistem in summer