



DAVIDIA INVOLUCRATA

Fam. Cornaceae

DESCRIPTION

Unique ornamental plant characterised by large flowers similar to white handkerchiefs. The crown, densely branched, has a conical shape in young specimens which becomes round in fully-grown trees that can grow up to 15-18 meters tall.

LEAVES

Heart-shaped leaves with slightly jagged margins. The upper face is glabrous and light-green while the lower one is covered with thick but short whitish down.

FRUITS

Singular spherical nuts containing 4 or 5 hard dark seeds which need a long period of vernalisation before they can germinate.

HABITAT

Native to Southeast Asia, this plant is widespread mainly in western China.

BARK

Thick and scaly greenish or brick-red bark.

DISTRIBUTION

Highly appreciated as a decoration in public parks and private gardens.

FLOWERS

They appear only on fully-grown plants (about 10 years old). Each inflorescence is wrapped in two types of white and pendulous bracts of different sizes, similar to white handkerchiefs. The dove-tree blooms profusely between May and June, almost at the same time as the leaves appear, and the flowers last for a few weeks.

INTERESTING FACTS

The *Davidia involucrata* is commonly known as the handkerchief tree.

ROOTS

This tree has a robust and deep root system.