

Davidia involucrata – Chinese Dove Tree

The Dove Tree is a lovely tree which is native to China, in its youth it has a pyramidal habit which spreads and rounds out with age growing to 12m tall and 9m wide. White flowers hang from the branches in Spring giving the appearance of Doves along the branches. It has beautiful Autumn colour foliage in mixtures of yellow, orange, and crimson and it is easy to see why this tree is so prized in the garden.

It prefers some shade, especially from the hot midday sun and average water in garden loam.

In the garden the Dove Tree prefers filtered shade, especially in warmer climates. It also requires regular, deep watering to look its best.

Propagation

Pre-treatment: None required.

Sowing: Sow the seeds in good garden loam or potting soil and cover with about 2.5cm of soil. Keep the seeds moist, do not allow the seed bed to dry completely, nor allow it to become waterlogged.

Dove Tree seed may take over a year to germinate. It is best to leave the seed exposed to cool temperatures over Winter as this may aid germination in the Spring.

Transplanting: When the plants have reached the two leaf pair stage they should be moved into a deep container or may be planted in the ground as long as they will receive regular watering and afternoon shade. Plants in containers should be moved into their permanent location within two years.

After Care: Provide regular watering and filtered afternoon shade.

