

## Ginkgo biloba – Maidenhair Tree

Ginkgo biloba is a deciduous tree that lives as long as 1,000 years and may grow to a height of 30 – 38m and a diameter to 1.2m. It is the world's oldest living tree species as it can be traced back more than 200 million years!

### Propagation

Ginkgo seed will not generally break their dormancy unless exposed to a period of low temperature and moist conditions known as stratification possibly recreating the circumstances of a cold northern winter. This period of "chilling" or stratification can be accomplished first soaking the seed for 24 hours and then by placing seed in a moist, sterile (pasteurised) growing medium, such as a mix of equal parts clean sand and peat or sphagnum peat moss, in a plastic bag or disinfected container. Enclose the container in a tightly sealed plastic bag and place it in the crisper section of the refrigerator for thirty days. Towards the end of the stratification period seeds may start to sprout. Seeds are then separated from the stratification medium and germinated at 17 to 22°C.

To germinate place the seed in a ziplock bag with one to two handfuls of damp sphagnum moss. Place the bag in a medium light place and maintain the moss in a lightly damp condition. Germination should occur in 14 to 36 days.

Once the seed has sprouted pot into a 10cm pot with a well-draining media. Maintain watering on a regular basis, particularly in the first week or two but beware of the risk of damping off. Give the young seedling good air circulation to reduce this risk. Plant out at any time after the seedling reaches 10cm in a full sun position. Ginkgo can take a range of soil types, but a neutral medium loam is recommended.

