

Trees of West Torrens

Chinese tallow

Botanical name	Sapium sebiferum
Family	Euphorbiaceae
Mature size	5m - 8m high 4m - 6m spread
Trunk girth	230mm - 250mm
Flowers	✓
Fruit/Seeds	✓

Description

In Adelaide the Chinese tallow reaches an approximate height of 5m to 8m and a spread of 4m to 6m after 20 years.

It is a small, attractive deciduous tree with round or oval sharply pointed leaves, turning red in autumn. The leaves are alternate, broadly pear-shaped, dark green above and much paler below with a tapering apex.

The tree's flowers are tiny and in small clusters arranged in terminal spikes; male flowers are yellow-green while female flowers (if present) will be found at the base of the flowering head.

The Chinese tallow's fruit is a capsule which is green when young becoming black when ripe. When mature, valves fall leaving naked seeds attached to the tree. The seeds are white in colour with approximately three in each capsule.

This tree is hardy to heat and reasonable tolerant to frost and cold. The Chinese Tallow will grow in most soils, but prefers a well-drained sandy loam enriched with organic matter. Once established these trees will thrive in a warm sunny position providing foliage colour in autumn.



Examples of the Chinese tallow as a street tree in West Torrens can be found on the north side of Dudley Avenue, North Plympton - planted in 1999.



Tree facts

A mature, healthy Chinese tallow tree at **8 metres** tall:



56 of these trees provide enough oxygen for one person for a year.



Provides **50m²** of canopy shade, equal to the shade of **16** beach umbrellas.



Removes **175 grams** of harmful air pollution every year.

Disclaimer: This information is specific to the climate and soil types of Adelaide. Tree facts from iTree.

