

• 中文名稱： 桃花心木

• 英文名稱： Mahogany、West Indies Mahogany

• 學名： *Swietenia mahogoni* (L.) Jacq.

• 科名： 楝科(Meliaceae)桃花心木屬(Swietenia)

小葉桃花心木，桃花心木

- 別名：
- **Small-leaf Mahogany** (小葉桃花心木)
  - **Mahogany** (桃花心木)

中南美洲及西印度熱帶地區。臺灣於 1901 年由日本人田代安定氏從日本引種，復於 1909 年橫濱植木株式會社從中美洲引入，1911 年日本人稻村時衛氏由印度引入，1953 年太麻里林業試驗所分所亦引種。

- 原產地：
- **Native Habitat:** The tropical regions of **Central and South America** and the **West Indies** (Caribbean).
  - **Introduction to Taiwan:** The plant was introduced in several waves during the 20th century:
    - **1901:** First introduced by **Yasunada Tashiro** (田代安定) from Japan.
    - **1909:** Imported from Central America by the **Yokohama Ueki Co.** (橫濱植木株式會社).
    - **1911:** Brought from India by **Tokiei Inamura** (稻村時衛).
    - **1953:** Further introduction by the **Taimali Branch of the Taiwan Forestry Research Institute.**

中南部及東部散見栽植。

- 分布：
- **Primary Regions:** Mostly found in **Central, Southern, and Eastern Taiwan.**
  - **Cultivation Style:** It is seen as **scattered plantings** (散見栽植) rather than massive wild forests.
  - **Common Locations:**
    - **Roadside Trees:** Often used as majestic shade trees along boulevards.

- **Campuses:** Very popular in older universities and schools in **Kaohsiung, Pingtung, and Tainan.**
- **Research Forests:** Specifically in places like the **Taimali** area of Taitung and forestry stations in the South.

1.庭園樹、行道樹：桃花心木長成後枝葉茂密，遮蔭效果好，多栽植於庭園、校園、公園供觀賞或綠蔭樹，較少為行道樹。2.木材可製傢俱、器具、作建材及雕刻材料：樹幹通直，心材赤褐色，質地堅緻而有美麗的光澤，為優良家具、室內裝潢材料及造船艦等用途；在歐美地區認為以桃花心木做的傢俱為最高級的傢俱。3.果實碩大呈長卵形，熟後木質化並自基部裂成五瓣，紅褐色的翅果便像直昇機螺旋槳般地旋轉飄落下來，甚為有趣，常被作為遊戲用的種子。4.藥用：樹皮：樹皮含鞣質(英語：**Tannin**，又稱單寧或丹寧)，是植物中的一種防衛用化學成分，用來封鎖蚜蟲的口腔以收防止蚜蟲的攻擊之效。效用：樹皮：有解熱，收斂，強壯之效。

### 1. Landscaping & Shade (庭園樹、行道樹):

- Once mature, it develops a **dense canopy** that provides excellent shade.
- It is a favorite for **gardens, school campuses, and parks** as an ornamental or shade tree.
- *Note:* It is used less frequently as a roadside tree compared to the "Big-leaf" variety because it grows more slowly.

### 2. High-End Timber (優良木材):

- **Characteristics:** The trunk grows straight, and the heartwood is a beautiful **reddish-brown**. The texture is hard, fine-grained, and possesses a natural lustrous "glow."
- **Applications:** It is a premier material for **furniture, interior decoration, carvings, and even shipbuilding**.
- **Status:** In Europe and America, mahogany furniture is traditionally considered the **highest grade of luxury furniture**.

### 3. The "Helicopter" Seeds (Educational/Play):

- The fruit is a large, woody, egg-shaped capsule.
- When ripe, it splits into five valves from the base, releasing **reddish-brown winged seeds**.

• 用途：

- These seeds spin through the air like **helicopter propellers**, making them a popular "nature toy" for children and a great tool for teaching aerodynamics.

#### 4. Medicinal & Protective Bark (藥用):

- **Chemical Defense:** The bark contains **Tannins (單寧)**. This is a natural defense mechanism that "plugs" the mouthparts of aphids to prevent them from attacking the tree.
- **Medical Effects:** In traditional medicine, the bark is used for its **antipyretic (fever-reducing), astringent, and tonic (strengthening)** properties.

喬木，全株挺直，樹幹挺拔，樹高可達 30 公尺以上，徑 30~80 公分；全株平滑，樹皮淡褐色，有縱向淺溝裂；具多數分枝，枝條直立或斜上昇，小枝具皮孔，葉痕略呈倒心形或近於圓形。

#### Stem (莖) Characteristics

- **Form:** A majestic **large tree (arbor)** with a perfectly **erect and upright** trunk.
- **Dimensions:** It can reach heights of **over 30 meters**, with a trunk diameter (DBH) typically between **30–80 cm**.
- **Bark:** The surface is relatively smooth when young, turning **light brown** with age. It develops distinct **shallow longitudinal fissures** (vertical grooves).
- **Branching:** It features numerous branches that grow **upright or diagonally upward**, creating a high, sturdy canopy.
- **Fine Details:**
  - **Lenticels (皮孔):** The smaller twigs are dotted with lenticels (breathing pores).
  - **Leaf Scars:** After a leaf falls, it leaves behind a scar on the twig shaped like an **inverted heart** or a **circle**.

• 莖：

葉互生，偶數羽狀複葉，長 15~25 公分；小葉 3~6 對，斜卵形或長橢圓狀卵形，長 5~8 公分，寬 2.5~4 公分，先端銳尖，基部鈍或圓而歪斜，薄革質或紙質，全緣；表面呈有光澤的綠色，背面淡綠色；中肋於表裡兩面皆隆起，側脈每邊 5~8 對，亦與兩面皆隆起；葉柄長 4~7 公分，光滑無毛，小葉柄長 0.4~0.6 公分，光滑無毛。初春落葉後迅即萌換新葉，葉片翠綠盎然。**Arrangement: Alternate (互生)** along the branches.

• 葉：

- **Type: Paripinnate** (偶數羽狀複葉), meaning the leaf is composed of pairs of leaflets with no single leaflet at the very tip.
- **Total Leaf Length: 15–25 cm.**
- **Leaflets:**
  - **Quantity:** Typically **3 to 6 pairs**.
  - **Shape: Obliquely ovate** or **oblong-ovate** (egg-shaped but "tilted" or lopsided).
  - **Size:** Each leaflet is **5–8 cm long** and 2.5–4 cm wide (this is the "Small-leaf" signature!).
  - **Base:** The base is **asymmetrical** (歪斜)—one side of the leaflet base is usually higher or wider than the other.
- **Texture & Color:**
  - **Texture: Thinly leathery** or **papery** (薄革質).
  - **Color:** The top surface is a **glossy deep green**, while the underside is a **pale green**.
- **Venation (Veins):** The midrib and **5–8 pairs of lateral veins** are **raised** (protruding) on both the top and bottom surfaces.
- **Petioles (Stalks):** The main leaf stalk is 4–7 cm long, and the tiny stalks for each leaflet (petiolules) are very short (0.4–0.6 cm). Both are **smooth and hairless**.

花小形，多數，開放時徑 0.5~0.7 公分，生長於枝條先端葉腋，呈圓錐花序排列；花序長 15~25 公分；花軸光滑無毛；花柄長 0.4~0.6 公分；花萼杯狀，先端 0.3~0.4 公分，先端鈍；花瓣 5 枚，倒卵狀長橢圓形，長 0.5~0.6 公分，寬 0.3~0.4 公分，先端鈍，平展；雄蕊 10 枚，花絲合生為雄蕊筒，呈壺形，較花瓣為短，先端有 10 齒裂；花藥 10 枚，位於齒裂片間而與其互生；子房卵形，5 室，花柱短，其下端有一圓形花盤，花盤肉質，作腺體狀環列；花柱短，柱頭頭狀。花期 3~4 月。

• 花：

- **Size & Quantity:** Small and numerous; the diameter when open is only **0.5–0.7 cm**.
- **Inflorescence:** Arranged in **panicles** (branched clusters) growing from the **leaf axils** at the tips of branches. The entire panicle is **15–25 cm long**.
- **Stalks:** The main axis (rachis) of the flower cluster is smooth and hairless. The individual

flower stalks (pedicels) are **0.4–0.6 cm long**.

- **Calyx (Sepals): Cup-shaped**, with the tip measuring 0.3–0.4 cm and having a blunt apex.
- **Petals: 5 petals**, obovate-oblong in shape, about 0.5–0.6 cm long and 0.3–0.4 cm wide. They have blunt tips and spread out flat when in bloom.
- **Stamens (The "Urn"):** There are **10 stamens**. The filaments are fused into a **staminal tube** that is **urn-shaped (urceolate)**. This tube is shorter than the petals and has **10 small teeth** at the top.
- **Anthers:** The **10 anthers** are located between and alternate with the teeth of the staminal tube.
- **Pistil:** The ovary is egg-shaped (ovate) with 5 chambers. At its base sits a **fleshy, circular disc** arranged in a glandular ring. The style is short, ending in a **capitate (head-like) stigma**.
- **Blooming Season:** Typically from **March to April**.

果實為蒴果，長 8~15 公分，寬 2.5~5 公分，卵形或錐狀橢圓形，先端漸尖，外具 5 縱稜，木質，熟後暗褐色，自基部縱裂為 5 片，每室內有種子 10~12 枚；種子扁平，淡黃色，具有長薄翅。

• 果實：

- **Type:** A **capsule** (蒴果) that is large and woody.
- **Dimensions:** Approximately **8–15 cm long** and 2.5–5 cm wide.
- **Shape:** **Ovate** (egg-shaped) or **conical-elliptical**, tapering to a pointed tip (acuminate).
- **Surface:** Features **5 distinct longitudinal ridges** (ribs) along the outside.
- **Color & Texture:** Hard and **woody**. It turns a deep **dark brown** when ripe.
- **Dehiscence (Opening):** The fruit splits from the **base** upward into **5 valves** (plates).
- **Seeds:**
  - Each of the 5 chambers contains **10–12 seeds**.
  - The seeds are **flat** and pale yellow.
  - Most importantly, each seed is attached to a **long, thin, papery wing** (翅果).

常綠大喬木，因木材呈桃花色澤而得名。喜高溫、耐旱，日照需充足。冬季~早春有半落葉現象。桃花心木高可以達到 30 公尺以上，主幹十分地明顯，樹幹為優良之家具用材。因為長大之後的桃花心木樹姿碧綠清秀，因此它也是造林、或是庭園樹的高級樹種。桃花心木 (*Swietenia mahagoni* (L.) Jacq.)和大葉桃花心木(*Swietenia macrophylla* King)，這兩種植物在外形上頗為相似，主要的差別在葉子上，桃花心木屬的葉子都是偶數羽狀複葉，羽狀複葉內的每個葉子稱為小葉，前者的小葉長約 3~8 公分，而後者的小葉長約 9~20 公分，在外觀形態上均極相似，惟本種之葉片、果實及種子皆較小。

• 特徵：

- **Growth Habit:** A majestic **evergreen large tree** (though it exhibits a "semi-deciduous" phase from winter to early spring).
- **Climate Needs:** It loves **high temperatures**, is **drought-tolerant**, and requires **full sunlight** to thrive.
- **The Name:** It earns the name "Mahogany" (桃花心木) because its wood possesses a beautiful **peach-blossom (pinkish-red) hue**.
- **Stature:** Can tower over **30 meters**, featuring a very distinct and straight main trunk.
- **Usage:** Its high-quality timber is prized for furniture, and its elegant, lush green appearance makes it a **premium choice** for reforestation and garden landscaping.