



# MORUS ALBA L.

Fam. Moraceae

## DESCRIPTION

Tree with a linear trunk and a crown that can reach 5 metres in diameter when fully-grown. The mulberry, in its natural state, can exceed 10 meters in height.

## HABITAT

The mulberry plant seems to have originated in Asia; in fact, the first specimen was found in China.

## DISTRIBUTION

Commonly known as mulberry, it is a widespread fruit tree cultivated in all temperate climate regions.

## FLOWERS

They appear almost simultaneously with the first leaves; they are small, white and bundled in inflorescences. The mulberry is self-fertile, therefore it does not need to be pollinated by bees or other pollinating insects. It blooms in April.

## FRUITS

Mulberry blackberries are fleshy and sweetish infructescences aggregated in close clusters at the leaf nodes. They are green when not ripe and they turn white in the *Morus alba* strain. They ripen between June and July.

## LEAVES

They sprout after the period of night frosts. They are oval-shaped, shiny and bright green, with a jagged margin.

## BARK

Brown or light brown, crossed by reddish or greyish streaks.

## INTERESTING FACTS

The genus name *Morus* comes from the Latin term *mōrus* and is due to the colour of the fruits of the *Morus nigra* (black mulberry). The ancient Greeks considered the plant, dedicated to the god Pan, as a symbol of passion and intelligence. Its wood is used mainly for the construction of barrels for balsamic vinegar. The bark and roots are recommended for the treatment of several infections or inflammations, such as gout, as they contain antibacterial ingredients. The leaves, especially those of the white mulberry, are the main source of nutrition for silkworms.

## ROOTS

This tree has a strong and deep root system.

