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*Celtis sinensis*

[Synonyms : *Celtis bodinieri*, *Celtis cercidifolia*, *Celtis hunanensis*, *Celtis japonica*, *Celtis labilis*, *Celtis nervosa*, *Celtis orientalis*, *Celtis sinensis* var. *japonica*, *Celtis tetrandra* subsp. *sinensis*, *Celtis willdenowiana*]

**CHINESE HACKBERRY** is a deciduous shrub or tree. Native to eastern Asia (particularly China, Japan and Korea) it has small green flowers and leaves that turn yellow in Autumn.

It is also known as Chinese celtis, *Enoki* (Japanese), Hackberry, Japanese hackberry, *Kiinankeltis* (Finnish), Portuguese elm, Yunnan hackberry, and *Zwepenboom* (Dutch).

The flowers are pollinated by bees.

*Sinensis* means 'of or from China'.

The fresh small dark orange fruit (which are said to be especially attractive to children) and the leaves are eaten. The latter are usually boiled as a vegetable and served with oil and salt. – and they have also been dried and prepared as a tea substitute.

The wood has been used locally for building, agricultural implements, fencing and kitchen utensils – and has also been burnt as fuel.

Chinese hackberry was introduced to North America in 1739.

It is grown both as an ornamental plant and a street tree.

Medicinally, local herbalists have turned to Chinese hackberry for an unusually diverse range of problems from shortness of breath, wind and loss of appetite to swollen feet.