



## Chionanthus retusus



|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Height</b>                | 6 – 8 m  |
| <b>Width</b>                 | 6-7m   |
| <b>Crown</b>                 | vase-shaped, half-open crown   |
| <b>Bark and branches</b>     | branches brown, bark peeling and strongly grooved, cinnamon brown to black brown |
| <b>Leaf</b>                  | oval, 4-10 cm, glossy dark green   |
| <b>Autumn colour</b>         | yellow   |
| <b>Flowers</b>               | in upright panicles up to 10 cm, flowers 1-2 cm large, white, June-July          |
| <b>Fruits</b>                | drupe, oval, 1-1.5 cm, dark blue   |
| <b>Spines/thorns</b>         | None   |
| <b>Toxicity</b>              | usually not toxic to people, (large) pets and livestock                          |
| <b>Soil type</b>             | clayed soil, loamy soil, sandy soil  |
| <b>Paving</b>                | tolerates no paving  |
| <b>Winter hardiness zone</b> | 6 (-23,3 to -17,8 °C)  |
| <b>Wind resistance</b>       | good   |
| <b>Other resistances</b>     | resistant to frost (WH 1 - 6), can withstand wind                                |
| <b>Fauna tree</b>            | resistant to frost (WH 1 - 6), can withstand wind, valuable for butterflies      |
| <b>Application</b>           | roof gardens, small gardens  |
| <b>Shape</b>                 | clearstem tree, multi-stem treem   |

The relatively slow-growing *Chionanthus retusus* is a small tree with a dense, round crown. *Chionanthus retusus* usually grows bushily for a long time, but will eventually grow into a small tree with a short trunk. The young twigs are brown and start to peel off after a few years. The old bark is beautifully cinnamon-brown and strongly flaking off and grooved black-brown. The oval, glossy dark green leaves are always opposite each other. In mild climates, the tree is semi-evergreen. The flowers open around midsummer. About 1.5 cm large, pure white flowers are gathered in compact panicles. The tree is dioecious and only the female plants can produce the dark blue fruits. Of course, the female flowers have to be pollinated by male ones. Fairly unknown, but perfectly hardy tree for use as a solitary or in small groups. *C. retusus* is fairly soil tolerant and tolerates lime. However, the soil must be nutritious and well-drained. It is a typical warmth lover and requires a place in full sun.