

Large shrub that grows into a tree, often multi-trunked and with a spreading manner of growth. Originally occurs on wooded mountain slopes in Japan and China. The grey-brown aromatic bark carries a light network of grooves and flakes off in platelets. The twigs start out hairy but are later bare. The large, ovoid to oval leaves are tapered. The upper side is fresh green, the underside grey-green. Bell-shaped white flowers with a diameter of approx. 1 cm appear in June/July. They have a strong and pleasant smell and are grouped in plumes measuring up to 20 cm. After flowering, large green drupes appear, approx. 1 cm in size. They bear rough hairs and have 5 ribs. *Pterostyrax* prefers neutral to slightly acid, well drained soil. It can also take calcareous soils. It is a particularly remarkable sight when in full bloom. *Pterostyrax hispida* is sometimes called the 'epaulette tree' because the flowers resemble the decoration on the shoulders of uniform jackets. The tree only produces abundant flowers after the passage of a few years.