



Luma apiculata



Height	5-6 m (15 m)
Width	4-5m
Crown	irregular sphere
Bark and branches	twigs grey-green, bark bright cinnamon brown, light brown-grey flaking
Leaf	evergreen, elliptical, 1-2,5 cm, glossy dark green
Flowers	white, solitary, 2 cm tall, July-October
Fruits	berry-shaped, 0,8-1cm, shiny black purple, edible
Spines/thorns	None
Toxicity	usually not toxic to people, (large) pets and livestock
Soil type	any, if well-drained
Paving	tolerates no paving
Winter hardiness zone	8b (-9,4,5 to -6,7 °C)
Wind resistance	moderate
Fauna tree	valuable for bees (honey plant)
Application	tree containers, patio gardens
Origin	U.S. National Arboretum, Washington D.C., USA, 1994
Synonyms	Myrtus luma, Myrtus apiculata

In the low countries, *Luma apiculata* is a rare occurrence as a tree, but in the British Isles and Ireland, hefty specimens can be found. These are all spectacular appearances. The trees then have the typical light cinnamon-brown trunk that flakes off in small light brown-grey plates. In north-western Europe, the tree does not grow much taller than about six metres; in its natural range, it can reach more than 15 metres. The young twigs are typically reddish haired. The leaves are not very large. They are leathery and glossy dark green. Often the leaf margin is wavy. The white flowers, notable for their four petals and a bundle of stamens, appear from July into October. They may be followed by black-purple, edible fruits. Unfortunately, the tree is not sufficiently hardy to be widely used outdoors. Its suitability is therefore limited to atria, conservatories, inner gardens, etc. It can be planted in any soil, provided it is sufficiently moist but still well-drained, so that no stagnant water remains around the roots. Preferably plant in full sun, although light shade is also tolerated.