

# European Nettle Tree

## *Celtis australis*



Images: Treelogic P/L ©



### Description

Typical height:  
8-10 metres

Typical width:  
6-12 metres

Growth rate:  
Slow to moderate

Typical form:  
Broad-domed, spreading  
branches.

### Origin

Southern Europe  
North Africa, and  
Asia Minor

### Characteristics

A medium deciduous tree with smooth grey bark. Alternating leaves are narrow and sharp-toothed on margins. Dark green and rough above, pubescent, grey-green below. Foliage turns yellow in autumn. Small, green flowers, either singly or in small clusters followed by a small, dark-purple berry-like drupe.

### Tolerances

High drought tolerance.

### Facts and Trivia

Fruit is sweet and edible. Supposedly the 'lotus of the ancients' which are described in Homer's Odyssey. Remains of fruit stones as well as wood fragments have been discovered in iron and bronze age archaeological sites in modern day Israel and Iran proving that the tree has been used in food and construction by humans for at least 2000 years.

Popular with birds and mammals.