

Chimonanthus praecox is a fairly densely branched large shrub, which can grow into a small multi-stemmed tree after many years. The light grey-green twigs are slightly flattened, especially where the leaves are attached. The leaves are always opposite, narrowly ovate to oval-lanceolate and very variable in size. In young, vigorously growing plants, they can be up to 20 cm in size. They are fresh dark green and slightly glossy. The upper surface is rough to the touch. From early December, the characteristic flowers open. These bell-shaped flowers are about 2.5 cm in size and are always in the axils where the now-fallen leaves were. The flowers are pale yellow with a purplish-red centre. They have a fresh and pleasant fragrance. Depending on frosts, the flowers open between December and the end of February. Once-opened flowers can be damaged by frost, but if the flowers are still in bud they rarely freeze. Wonderful solitary park tree, but because of its modest size also suitable for use in gardens. Requires a nutritious, well-drained soil and a place in full sun.