

# 10,000 TREES INITIATIVE

## TREE INFO CARD

### Red Mulberry

*(Morus rubra)*

#### Get to know your tree:

The red mulberry is a Michigan native species with medium-sized, coarsely-toothed leaves with a rough texture. The leaves are variable in shape, ranging from unlobed to two-lobed ('mitten-shaped') or three-lobed ('turkey foot'). Fall leaf color is typically a pale yellow. Flowers are small hanging catkins that are green or red in color. Fruits are composite berries similar in appearance to blackberries, with long stalks. Berries are green when young and turn red, then purple-black, as they age. Bark is smooth and pale orange-brown on younger trees, developing scaly ridges with age.

#### Tree benefits:

Each year, a 1-inch diameter red mulberry provides approximately \$36.00 in benefits and reduces atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels by 9 pounds. To learn more about the benefits provided by your tree, or to see the benefits provided by larger red mulberry trees, please visit [www.treebenefits.com](http://www.treebenefits.com).



### Fun facts about your tree:

Mulberry fruits are edible, with a sweet flavor and juicy texture. They are frequently used for jams and syrups, but are not commonly sold commercially due to a short shelf-life.

The red mulberry is very closely related to the white mulberry (*Morus alba*), an invasive species from Asia which is cultivated to feed silkworms for commercial silk production.



### Plant your tree:

When choosing where to plant this tree, consider spots with at least partial sun exposure (at least 4 hours of sun per day). Mulberries grow to heights of 35-40 feet, with a spread of around 40 feet. This species does well in most soil types. The fruits can be messy.

For detailed planting instructions, please visit [www.arboday.org/trees/planting](http://www.arboday.org/trees/planting). And always make sure to call Miss Dig (1-800-482-7171) to mark underground utilities before digging on your property!

### Care for your tree:

This species is moderately tolerant of drought, but prefers moist soil. Watering should be done during dry periods - especially in the summer - but there's no set amount of water your tree needs. Instead, how much you water should be based on the soil. Check the soil at a depth of two inches - if it's moist, there's no need to water. But if it's dry, you should water your tree! Make sure not to water if the temperature is below freezing. Most trees need watering during the first two years after planting - but keep an eye on older trees as well.



[www.a2gov.org/10ktrees](http://www.a2gov.org/10ktrees)