By Li Yan (Sophia) Li

Family: Magnoliaceae
Genus: Michelia
Specific epithet: champaca
Common Name: michelia, wong lan, champaca, champak
Native: South and Southeast Asia
Type and Use: tree or shrub
Size: 20-25 feet
Growth rate: fast
Light requirement: full/ partial sun
Characteristics

**Foliage:**
- Evergreen
- Smooth-Textured
- Ovate/ alternate leaf arrangement

- **Other details:**
  - Flowers are fragrant
  - 15 tepals with many stamens
  - Average Water Needs; Water regularly; do not overwater

- **Soil pH requirements:**
  - 6.1 to 6.5 (mildly acidic)

- **Propagation Methods:**
  - From seed; germinate in vitro in gelatin, agar or other medium
  - Scarify seed before sowing
  - By simple layering

- **Branches:**
  - Cover with grey hairs
Seeds

The fruit of Michelia is made up of up to 3-20 brown follicles that are dry at maturity and split open at one side. Each follicle contains 2-6 reddish seeds.
Planting Tips

**Michelia champaca**

**GOLDEN CHAMPACA**

**DESCRIPTION:** The highlights of this evergreen tree are the mass of sweetly perfumed, creamy yellow flowers produced from summer to autumn, and its smooth grey trunk. Slender, glossy, bright green leaves droop from horizontal branches. While growing to 30m in its native Himalayas, this tree rarely grows above 10m in cultivation.

**USES:** An ornamental tree useful for large gardens and parks.

**POSITION:** Thrives in moist, humus rich, well drained soil in a sunny position protected from frost. Resents being transplanted.

**CARE:** Provide adequate water in dry periods. Pruning is seldom needed.

**PLANTING GUIDE:** Cultivate soil before planting. Dig hole twice the width of container. Place the plant in hole so the soil level of the plant is the same as the surrounding soil. Fill hole firmly and water well, even if the soil is moist.
Michelia Alba
Street Trees
References:
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