

Tree factsheet

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***Mespilus germanica* L.**

taxonomy	
author, year	Linnaeus 1753
synonym	<i>Pyrus germanica</i> (L.) Hook.
Family	Rosaceae
Eng. Name	Medlar, Common Wild Medlar
Dutch name	Mispel
subspecies	-
varieties	-
hybrids	+ <i>Crataegomespilus</i> (craft cultivar of <i>Mespilus</i> + <i>Crataegus</i>)
cultivars, frequently used:	
highly productive cultivars:	
'Dutch'	
'Nottingham'	
references	
	Plants for a Future Database; http://www.pfaf.org/index.html
morphology	
crown habit	tree, spreading
max. height (m)	6
max. dbh (cm)	>30
actual size Europe	
actual size Netherlands	
leaf length (cm)	6-14
leaf petiole (cm)	0,5
leaf colour upper surface	green
leaf colour under surface	green
leaves arrangement	alternate
flowering	May-June
flowering plant	monoecious
flower	hermaphrodite
flower diameter (cm)	3,5-5
flower male catkins length (cm)	-
pollination	insects
fruit; length	pear-shaped pome (pitvrucht); 5-7 cm
fruit petiole (cm)	0,5-1
seed; length	pip (pitje); approx 0,5 cm
seed-wing length (cm)	-
weight 1000 seeds (g)	
seeds ripen	October
seed dispersal	birds
habitat	

natural distribution	S. Europe, Turkey, Armenia, N. Iran
in N.W. Europe since	approx 100 AC
natural areas The Netherlands	forests
geological landscape types The Netherlands (Hoek 1997)	loess covered terraces, ice pushed ridges in S. Netherlands
forested areas The Netherlands	sandy and loamy soils
area Netherlands	not a forest canopy tree
% of forest trees in the Netherlands	<0,1
soil type	
pH-KCl	indifferent
soil fertility	nutrient rich to medium
light	shade tolerant when young, half shade tolerant when mature
① shade tolerance (0=no tolerance to 5=max. tolerance)	2.7
① drought tolerance (0=no tolerance to 5=max. tolerance)	3.9
① waterlogging tolerance (0=no tolerance to 5=max. tolerance)	1.0
plant communities in the Netherlands	Klasse der doornstruwelen: -Pruno-Crataegetum - associatie van Sleedoorn en Eenstijlige meidoorn Klasse der Eiken-beukenbossen op voedselarme grond: -Luzulo luzuloides-Fagetum - Veldbies-Beukenbos -Stellario-Carpinetum (Eiken-haagbeukenbos, niet genoemd in Weeda, Atlas van Plantengemeenschappen in Nederland)
management	
status Europe	rare indigenous species in forests and urban environment
status The Netherlands	rare exotic (naturalized) species in forests and urban environment
application	fruit tree, ornamental, nature tree
propagation	seed; named cultivars by grafting
regeneration	planting; natural regeneration from seed
optimal gap size for regeneration	forest edges
first plantation Netherlands	
resprouting after cutting	good
growth rate (M.A.I. in $m^3ha^{-1}j^{-1}$)	slow, (data unknown)
diseases	<i>Erwinia amylovora</i> – bacterium - Fireblight - Bacterievuur
insects	
wood	
wood	medlar (Dutch: mispel)
wood structure key characteristics of pores	
vol. mass heartwood (kg/m ³)	
elastic modulus (N/mm ²)	
durability heartwood	
heartwood color	white
sapwood color	white
contents	
products	turnery, furniture
non-timber products	
fruits	cooked edible

① Ülo Niinemets and Fernando Valladares. 2006. Tolerance to shade, drought, and waterlogging of temperate Northern Hemisphere trees and shrubs. Ecological Monographs 76:521–547



leaves



twig



cultivated Medlar flower and foliage



large fruit of a cultivated Medlar

photography © Leo Goudzwaard



smaller fruit of a Wild Medlar, France