

# CHICAGOLAND GROWS<sup>®</sup>, INC.

*Plant Introduction Program - Plant Release Bulletin #24*



## **Exclamation!<sup>™</sup> London Planetree**

*Platanus x acerifolia* 'Morton Circle'

Formerly: Encore and Admiration London Planetree

A strong central leader, uniform upright pyramidal shape, densely branched, vigorous growth rate and resistance to anthracnose makes Exclamation!<sup>™</sup> a superior choice. It has shown resistance to frost cracking in northern Illinois and excellent tolerance to difficult urban conditions. Exclamation!<sup>™</sup> develops exquisite exfoliating bark at an early age and shows good resistance to powdery mildew.



Chicagoland Grows<sup>®</sup> is a nonprofit corporation of the Chicago Botanic Garden, The Morton Arboretum, and the Ornamental Growers Association of Northern Illinois (OGA).



# Exclamation!™ London Planetree

*Platanus x acerifolia* 'Morton Circle'

## Botanical Name

*Platanus x acerifolia* 'Morton Circle'

## Trade Name

Exclamation!™ London Planetree  
Formerly: Encore and Admiration London Planetree

## Family

Platanaceae (Planetree family)

## Origin

The London planetree (*Platanus x acerifolia*) is an interspecific hybrid between *P. orientalis* and *P. occidentalis*. Exclamation!™ is a selection of the London planetree resulting from a controlled cross by Dr. George Ware at The Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois. Dr. Ware crossed *P. orientalis* from the U.S. National Arboretum with an anthracnose-resistant *P. occidentalis* growing at The Morton Arboretum. The original plant of Exclamation!™ has been observed since 1994.

## Hardiness

USDA Zones 4-8

## General Description and Habit

Exclamation!™ has a strong central leader and uniform, strongly upright pyramidal shape. The tree is densely branched, particularly as a young tree.

## Size

Mature size is 60 feet tall by 45 feet wide.

## Growth Rate

Fast as a young specimen, up to 3 feet per year, then 1 to 1 1/2 feet per year until maturity.

## Ornamental Characteristics

**Foliage:** Medium green, deeply palmate-lobed foliage cloaks the tree all summer, with an occasional brief display of yellow color in the fall.

**Bark:** Develops attractive exfoliating bark, as expected of planetrees, at an early age. The mottled brown, green, and tan bark peels off in large plates revealing patches of interior bark in varying shades of cream to white.

**Fruit:** Very light fruiting as a young tree. Older specimens are exhibiting less fruiting than other planetrees in the market.

## Culture

Exclamation!™ is adaptable to a wide range of soils but prefers a site with full sun and good air circulation. Easy to grow and long-lived, it has exceptional tolerance to poor soils, extended flooding or drought, and air pollution. Soil pH adaptable.

## Pest and Disease Problems

Bred to be highly resistant to anthracnose, it also has good resistance to powdery mildew, which, if present, occurs in late summer to early fall.

## Landscape Value

Exclamation!™ works very well in large parking lot islands, median strip plantings, as a residential street tree, or as a landscape shade tree. London planetrees are noted for excellent tolerance to difficult urban conditions and Exclamation!™ is no exception, with a high tolerance for air pollution, poor drainage, compacted soil, and/or drought.

## Propagation

Easily produced through softwood cuttings. Clonal propagation is required, as plants propagated from seed will not be true to type.

## Special Features

Exclamation!™ with its superior adaptability, hardiness, disease resistance and unique upright, dense habit lends itself to a multitude of landscape applications. Consider Exclamation!™ as an ash (*Fraxinus*) replacement. Exclamation!™ is a sister seedling to Ovation™, an additional hybrid London planetree introduced by Chicagoland Grows® from the tree breeding program at The Morton Arboretum, selected for its hardiness, vigor, and broad spreading habit.

Chicagoland Grows® is a nonprofit corporation of the Chicago Botanic Garden, The Morton Arboretum, and the Ornamental Growers Association of Northern Illinois (OGA).

The Chicagoland Grows® Plant Introduction Program is dedicated to the evaluation, selection, production, and marketing of recommended and new plant cultivars. Plants selected for the program have proven to be adaptable to the Midwest and are made available to the commercial and retail landscape industry through an international network of growers and propagators.

