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## **Nothofagus nervosa**



This tree comes from the Andes where it can grow to approx. 25 m tall and is an important producer of timber ('rauli' or 'Chilean mahogany'). Its sensitivity to frost means that it does not attain this height in Europe. It is a slow-growing sturdy tree. Because the main branches stand out horizontally and later become pendulous, its eventual shape is that of a spherical crown. The trunk is glossy dark brown and smooth and bears a remarkably large number of crosswise lenticels. The leaves have pronounced veins and are finely serrated like those of the hornbeam (Carpinus betulus). In the autumn the leaves turn to golden yellow. The nutlets, measuring approx. 1 cm, appear following the unremarkable greenish flowers. This tree has a deeply penetrating and strongly branched taproot and it requires a sheltered site to protect it against cold winters. Despite the risk of frost damage, the tree always emerges vigorously every year.