



### Tree Characteristics

- This massive tree has the largest trunk diameter of all the Eastern U.S. hardwoods. 3 to 8 feet in diameter.
- Typically easy to identify due to the uniqueness of the trunk. Known for resembling camouflage.
- Leaves are alternate, simple, 4 to 8 inches wide, maple like in general appearance.
- Ovate to orbicular coarsely/wavy toothed.
- 3 to 5 lobes



### Flowers

- Small in dense heads appearing with leaves.
- Often referred to as the button ball tree due to the shape of the fruit.
- In summer, appearing with leaves, 3 to 6 sepals and equal number of petals.
- Male:red
- Female: larger than male. Greenish



### Fruit

- In ball like heads, about 1 to 2 inches in diameter, usually borne solitarily at the end of slender drooping stalks.



## American Sycamore *Platanus Occidentalis*



By:Kathlyn Kenning

## American Sycamore



## Extra Facts

### Where to find a Sycamore?

- Located from Maine and Ontario south to northern Florida. West to the east portions of Nebraska, Kansas and Texas.
- They reach their maximum capacity in lower Ohio and Mississippi Valley.
- Wood is extremely heavy, hard, tough, coarse grained, and is difficult to work or split.
- Mainly used for furniture(both solid and veneer), interior finish, siding, musical instruments, boxes and crates.
- Usually planted in back yards or parks because of their large nature.

- Extremely susceptible to fire as well as a fungal disease known as, Anthracnose.
- This disease is generally prevalent during cool, wet, springs, when it kills young growth which weakens the tree, thus making it more susceptible to secondary infections.



- Sycamore lace bug feed on the underside of leaves making them appear stripped, eventually leading to early defoliation in fall.

### Question:

- Leaves resemble that of a \_\_\_\_\_ tree.

A. Maple B. Oak C. Ash D. Beech

Sources: [http://plants.usda.gov/plantguide/pdf/cs\\_ploc.pdf](http://plants.usda.gov/plantguide/pdf/cs_ploc.pdf)

<http://forestry.about.com/od/hardwoods/ss/sycamore.htm> Grimm, William Carey. *The illustrated Book of Trees*