

QUIZ TIME

The American Sycamore PLATANUS OCCIDENTALIS

WHAT TYPE OF FLOWER
DOES THE SYCAMORE
TREE HAVE?

- A) Dioecious
- B) Trimonoecious
- C) Monoecious
- D) Subdioecious



(C) Monoecious



(1)

REFERENCES

(1) American Sycamore, *Platanus occidentalis*, Morton Arboretum acc. 262-40*6, photographed June 6, 2007 by Bruce Marlin

Plant Guide: American Sycamore. USDA and NRCS, 19 June 2002. Web. 17 Sept. 2011. <http://plants.usda.gov/plantguide/pdf/cs_ploc.pdf>.

"Ohio Trees - American Sycamore." *Ohio Department of Natural Resources - Camping, Boating, Fishing, Hunting, Biking, Hiking in Ohio*. Department of Natural Resources, 17 Sept. 2011. Web. 20 Sept. 2011. <http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/Home/trees/sycamore_amer/tabid/5424/Default.aspx>

Did you know that the American Sycamore is also known as the buttonwood, buttonball tree and the American planetree?

Leaf, Flower, Fruit and Stem Characteristics



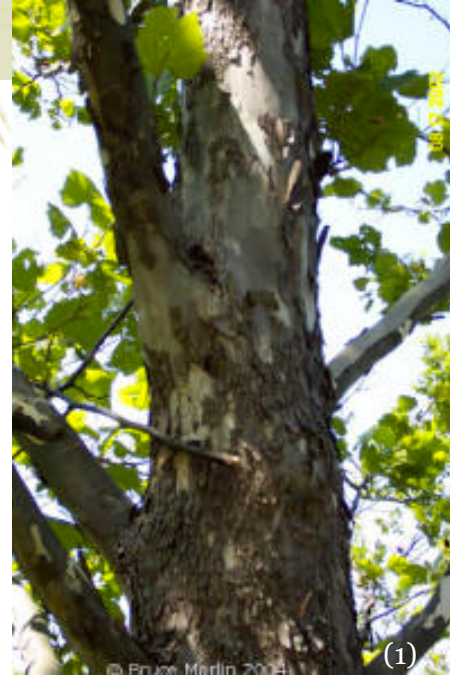
J E Theriot

When looking at an American Sycamore you will notice that their leaves are palmately veined with an alternate leaf structure. They have a square base with an orbicular shape, that is coarsely wavy with 3-5 lobes. The leaf is typically bright green with a more muted back. The fruit of the American Sycamore is composed of many achenes with a bristly base, making it an indehiscent. The flowers of this tree are in separate, male and female, clusters, making it monoecious. Stems, or the branches, twigs, and trunk of the tree, are arranged in a zigzag pattern with distinguishable bark. The bark can be recognized from its flaky brown construction with a light wood base underneath.



Jane Kirkland/Take a Tree Walk

Although most people will mistake this sickness for frost burn because it turns the leaf veins brown and creates cankers on the trees, it is in fact, due to the anthracnose disease. Cures for this unfortunate illness include either the trimming of the diseased areas or using pesticides.



COMMON USES

The history of the Sycamore dates back to the Native Americans who gained the tree in the 17th century and used this tree in many ways. They were able to create medicines from this tree to cure colds, help with diets, women's health, and dermatological health. Nowadays you can see the sycamore put to use in many common items in your life. For example, a Sycamore is used to make butchers blocks, flooring, furniture, and many types of wooden blocks. You will also see Sycamores used to restore an area, especially damaged by oil.

American Sycamore