

The Ohio Buckeye Tree - Aesculus Glabra

History of the Tree

The Ohio Buckeye Tree got its name from the Native Americans who thought that since the seeds were a chestnut-brown color with a lighter brown circular shape that it looked like the eye of a buck (a male deer).



The Ohio Buckeye Tree was designated as Ohio's state tree in 1953. Ohio's nickname is also "the buckeye state."

Geographical Range

The Ohio Buckeye Tree can be found in the southern half of the Midwest United States and down through central Texas. The average annual temperature of the area that this tree grows in is 40 to 50 degrees Fahrenheit. This tree grows best in deep, moist soil. (2)

Tree Characteristics

The leaves are palmately compound,



and are arranged opposite on the branches.



The leaf is made up of 5 leaflets elliptical shaped and serrate. The leaflets are typically between 3"- 6" long. Also the tree itself is typically 30'-60' in height and 30' in width. The Ohio Buckeye Tree does bear fruit and flowers. The fruit capsule is 1"-2" and is leather like and spiny and the capsules contain 1 -3 seeds or buckeyes. The flowers are whitish yellow color and are in clusters that are 3"-5" long. (3)

Susceptibility

The Ohio Buckeye Tree is susceptible to leaf scorch and leaf blotch. These are typically caused by extreme exposure to the sun and drought. The leaves start to dry up and turn brown, and as it progresses the trees begin to lose their leaves.(1)

Interesting Facts

- Some people consider the buckeye nut to be good luck.
- The buckeye nut has been used to help with arthritis pain.
- The buckeye is very poisonous.
- The mascot of OSU was named from this tree.



- In the past the Ohio Buckeye Tree has been used to make furniture. (3)

