

# Osage Orange Tree



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Also known as Hedge Apple<sup>1</sup>

Grows almost everywhere.  
Fruit size of grapefruit<sup>2</sup>

Has large apple like fruit in the late  
summer.<sup>1</sup>

The tree on campus is more than...

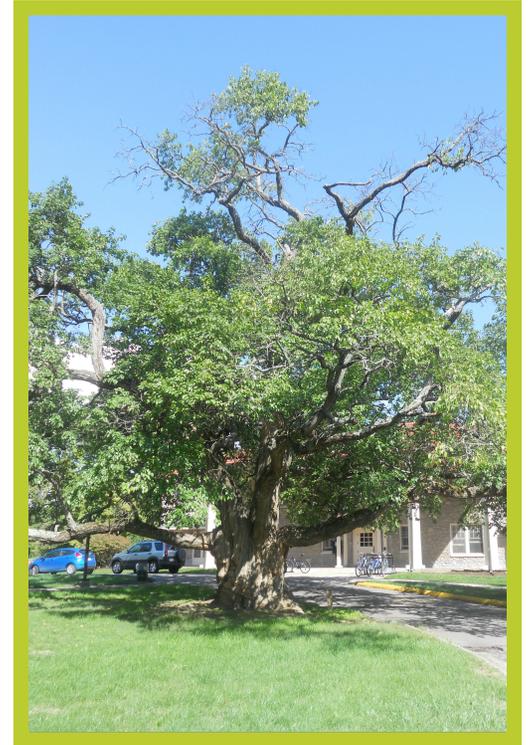
150 years old!<sup>1</sup>

**Introduced in to 48/50 states  
and in Canada and  
Originated in the South.<sup>4</sup>**



Breann DeGrendel

Dr. Meicenheimer  
BOT 155  
Tree Project



**Osage Orange**  
*Maclura pomifera*

**By Breann DeGrendel**

## Facts

Medium sized tree, 20-30 feet tall<sup>5</sup>

Part of the Mulberry Family  
(Moracea)<sup>5</sup>

Leaves are:

Alternate, Simple, Entire,  
ovate, and have pointed  
tips.<sup>5</sup>

Can be distinguishable by ovate  
leaves, large fruit. It also releases  
a milky sap when a branch is broke  
off that turns from white to black.<sup>5</sup>

Fruit only grow on females  
Although the fruit isn't  
edible, the seeds are!<sup>2</sup>

The fruit consists of many drupes.<sup>5</sup>

Can tolerate urban air and road  
salt <sup>2</sup>.

It is mostly impenetrable to bugs <sup>2</sup>  
and has one main parasite that  
attacks it, Cotton root rot. <sup>5</sup>

## Citations

- <sup>1</sup> Brochure for Tree's at Miami University
- <sup>2</sup> <http://lewis-clark.org/content/content-article.asp?ArticleID=2523>
- <sup>3</sup> <http://mdc.mo.gov/landwater-care/plant-management/nuisance-plant-management/osage-orange-control>
- <sup>4</sup> [http://www.na.fs.fed.us/pubs/silvics\\_manual/volume\\_2/maclura/pomifera.htm](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/pubs/silvics_manual/volume_2/maclura/pomifera.htm)
- <sup>5</sup> The Illustrated Book of Trees by William Carey Grimm



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## Indians

Used it for:

Sturdy wood  
Hunting bows<sup>2</sup>

Called it "bois d'arc" or "wood for a  
bow"<sup>2</sup>

Name came from translation of  
Indian tribe's name, Wazhazhe  
(Osage).

They were the first to use  
this tree for their bows. <sup>2</sup>

## Different Uses

While the tree itself is to  
dense to easily stick a nail in it, the  
wood was used for fence posts. It  
was so hard that it could outlast  
wire. <sup>2</sup>

If the tree is pruned then it  
can yield a thick hedge with thorns.  
The hedge is so thick that it was  
used to block wind on the Prairie. <sup>4</sup>



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The flowers are very small<sup>2</sup>

## The Famous Tree

### Meriwether Lewis<sup>2</sup>

Meriwether Lewis sent seeds of this  
tree from St. Louis to Thomas  
Jefferson.

He called them Osage apple trees.

Thomas Jefferson planted the seeds  
at St. Peter's Episcopal Church. <sup>2</sup>

### Patrick Henry<sup>2</sup>

Spent last 5 years of life at Red Hill  
Osage tree was there.

The tree was very tall, large  
and about...

300 years old!<sup>2</sup>