



## SYCAMORE

*Platanus occidentalis*

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### Native Range

Sycamore is native in eastern United States from eastern one-third of Kansas to Maine and Florida. Usually grows along rivers.

### Mature Size

One of the largest trees in the state reaching a height of about 80 feet with immense spreading branches.

### Growth Rate

Growth rate is rapid when young if it has sufficient moisture.

### Exposure

Very intolerant - needs full sun light.

### Leaves, Stems and Fruit

The leaves are simple and alternately arranged on the twig with 3 or 5 pointed lobes and a few coarse teeth. Base is lobed or straight or with a small triangular portion of the blade extended along the petiole. Yellow-green to medium green above, paler green beneath with pale hairs along the veins. May reach 6-10 inches long and 4-6 wide. It has a leaf-like stipule on the stem above the leaf. Twigs are green to slightly brown or gray-brown, coarse, rigid, enlarged at the nodes. Buds are cone-shaped developing inside the base of the petiole with only one bud scale. Bark is dark brown when young but becomes white to greenish-white and showy with age. Flowers are separate on the same tree and not showy. Fruit is golfball-like and is green when young and brown when mature.

### Use

#### Wildlife Habitat

Sycamores make good den and roost trees.

#### Riparian Buffers

It is often a good selection for riparian plantings due to its high flood tolerance and extensive root system.

### Adaptation

Eastern half of Kansas.

**Soil**

Moderately tolerant to a broad range of soils with adequate soil moisture. This is not a tree for a droughty site.

**Spacing**

Space at 8 feet in riparian and 30 feet in wildlife plantings.

**Culture**

One-year-old, bare-root seedlings (14 to 18 inches tall) are used in conservation plantings. During the establishment period, supplemental watering and control of competing vegetation will aid survival and early growth.

**Pests**

Anthraxnose and lacebugs are common problems.