



Bark

Fruit

5-13"

Height range 75 to 150"

American Sycamore

Platanus occidentalis

The Plane-tree Family (Platanaceae)

Basic Description: Tall, massive tree with straight trunk, heavy spreading branches, large, alternate, deciduous leaves and mottled greenish-gray to brown exfoliating bark.

Interesting Facts: Large trunks were carved into dugouts by Native Americans. Sap used as a drink or reduced to syrup. Its height, large leaves and pollution tolerance make it a common shade tree in cities. One of the largest simple leaves found on a tree in North America.

Flower: Male and female: Greenish, very small in round clusters with a single cluster to a long stalk. Blooms with leaves.

Fruit: Spherical brown ball with tiny, winged, .5" long seeds on a 3 to 6" stalk; maturing in fall, disseminating in late winter.

Wildlife Value: Mostly an ornamental tree; however birds and rodents eat seeds. Hollow trunk serves as cover for chimney swifts.

Habitat: Low, moist woods; floodplains; rich bottomlands.

LEAF TYPE

SIMPLE



POLLINATOR

WIND



WILDLIFE VALUE

LOW

