

## Red Buckeye

## Aesculus pavia

## The Horsechestnut Family (Hippocastanaceae)

Basic Description: Deciduous shrub or short tree with opposite, palmately compound leaves and gray-brown, smooth, "splotchy" bark.

Interesting Facts: The Red Buckeye's large seed, which is said to resemble a deer's eye, is considered a good luck charm. Native Americans pulverized seeds and broadcast the powder to stun fish for fishing purposes. Toxic chemicals found in the roots and seeds can be used as a soap substitute.

Flower: Upright cluster of dark-red tubular flowers, cluster 6 to 10" long, appearing in spring.

Fruit: Three-part smooth husk containing 1 to 3 large shiny brown seeds, maturing in the fall.

Wildlife Value: Although the nectar is a favorite food for hummingbirds, the high content of toxins in the rest of the plant makes it a poor food source for birds and mammals.

Habitat: Common in woods, along streams, in thickets, and on rocky hills.

**LEAF TYPE** COMPOUND

**POLLINATOR** 

**BIRDS & INSECTS** 





WILDLIFE VALUE

LOW