

PLANTING YOUR AMERICAN SYCAMORE

1- After unpacking your tree, carefully handle your tree and untangle roots. Soak the roots in a bucket of water for 3-6 hours. (Do not allow roots to dry out)

2- Dig a hole wide enough to cover the root system. You want the roots to be able to spread out without being crowded.

3- Plant the tree so that the swelling of the base is slightly above the soil.

4- Fill in the hole with soil. Do not cover live branches or foliage, or leave any roots exposed to the air.

5- Tamp soil firmly but it should not be tightly packed.

6- Give your tree plenty of water.

7- After the water has soaked in, spread protective mulch 2 inches deep in a 3-foot diameter area around the base.

8- Keep the soil and mulch around your tree moist.

Cuyahoga Soil & Water
Conservation District

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CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF CONSERVATION | 1949-2019

American Sycamore

*Platanus
occidentalis*





Caring For Your American Sycamore

Trees require nutrients, water and sunlight to thrive. To increase likelihood of survival, be sure to water tree every 7-10 days, especially in times of drought. As your tree ages and becomes more established you won't need to water it as frequently.

Deer might want to snack on your new tree, you might want to consider putting a cage/fence around your tree to keep the deer away.

Be sure to pull any weeds growing close to your tree to prevent competition.

DESCRIPTION

Habitat: Enjoys to grow in more wet areas like along streams and rich bottom lands.

Height: being one of the larger hardwood trees, the American sycamore is a rapid growing tree reaching 140-170 feet. The diameter can reach anywhere between 10-11 feet.

Bark: The bark of the American sycamore is one of the most telling identifying characteristics. Toward the bottom of the tree the bark is a scaly gray-brown. Toward the top of the tree the bark becomes white, which becomes more noticeable with age due to flakes falling off tree.

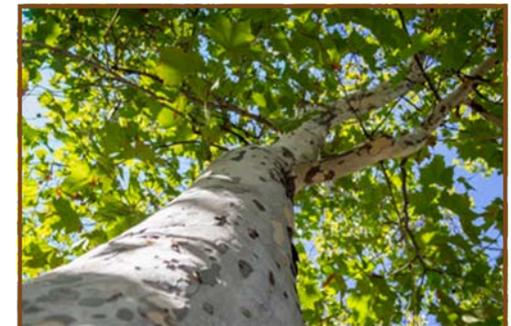
Leaves: Can become fairly large. Growing 4-7 inches long. Leaves have broad lobes with toothed leaf margins.

Seeds: The seeds are also a good identification feature. Seeds are round, are about 1 inch in diameter. Rarely has more than one seed per stem. The seed ball breaks up in spring and the small seeds are dispersed by wind and water.

ECOLOGICAL SERVICES

When the branches of an American sycamore fall off it will usually leave a cavity where the branch once was. These cavities provide a home for cavity nesting birds and animals to move into.

The seeds of the American sycamore are also a great food source for many birds.



American sycamore bark