

Buckeye

Aesculus glabra



Description: medium-sized tree to 60 feet tall, 1-2 feet diameter with broad, rounded crown branches often droop. Pale gray bark. Leaves opposite, compound, hand-shaped. Flowers in large, showy clusters. Distinctive Buckeye seeds resemble the eye of deer. Has offensive odor when leaves, twigs, or bark or bruised, stinking Buckeye

Leaves: opposite, born palmately compound with 5 or 7 finely tooth leaflets 3 to 6 in long on long 3 to 5 in leaf stems. Oval leaflets without stems, tips tapering to a point, bases likewise, essentially hairless yellow green above, paler below. Turn yellow and fall

Bark: Ash Gray smooth when young thick, plated and fissured on older trees

Flowers: yellow-green, hairy, large to 10 in long cone-shaped clusters at branch tips in April / May

Fruits: nearly round, warty to spiny capsules 1 to 2 in diameter with a leathery husk open to release one to three large, glossy, chocolate-colored seeds called Buckeyes. Seeds toxic to farm animals and not edible to humans

Habitat/Range: usually rich, moist woods, well-drained floodplains, fence rows, and roadside. Rarely a canopy tree in forest stands. Occasionally planted as ornamental. Found throughout Indiana