

Sycamore
Platanus occidentalis



Description: large tree to 100 feet tall, 6 Plus feet diameter with spreading crowns and white bark on upper trunk and limbs. Leaves large, maple like. Fruit a sycamore ball on the drooping stem

Leaves: alternate, simple, born singly on long to 4 in, hairy leafstalks. Blade nearly circular an outline to 8 in across, but with three through five main sharp-pointed hands like lobes, the lobes toothed, bright green above, paler lower surface with hairy veins. Stipulates at leaf bases leaves turn, rusty brown in fall

Bark: Brown and thin rounded scales, which flake off to expose large green or white expanses, especially on the upper trunk

Flowers: unisexual on same tree, but born separately in May crowded together in dense, round clusters

Fruits: round, light brown, 1 in diameter clusters of many seeds, born on long, drooping stems. Fruits ripen in October often retained throughout winter. Each seed has a plume of hair for wind disposal

Habitat/Range: occurs widely in enriched bottomlands of creeks and rivers, around lakes and ponds, and invades old fields. Frequent ornamental or shade tree, but messy due to shedding of bark, branches, leaves, and fruits; found throughout Indiana