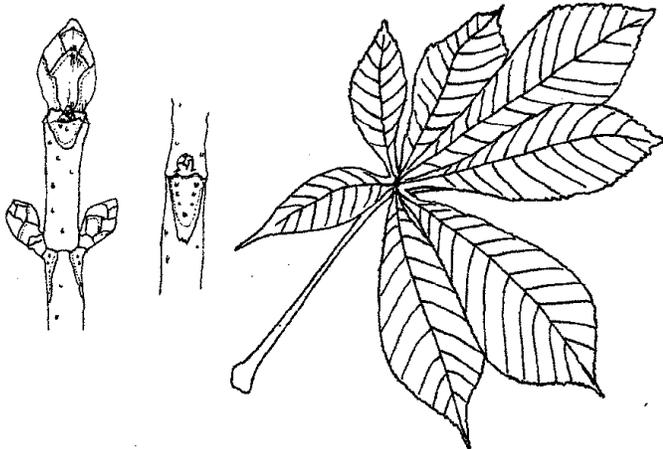


Horsechestnut



GENERAL DESCRIPTION: This is a significant landscape tree in the parks and gardens of Europe and was once commonly planted in the Midwest and Northeastern United States. Since it grows quite tall it is best in the open landscape. The large upright panicles of white flowers with reddish-pink dots provide a wonderful late spring display. The upright habit with the large dark green palmately compound leaves that yellow in the fall provide a pleasant foliage display. In the fall the significant spiny two seeded shiny brown fruits provide a lustrous appearance to the fall foliage. Due to the development of a summer blotch that turns the leaves brown in the heat of the summer in the United States, this tree is not planted very much anymore.

HABIT AND SIZE: Upright-oval to rounded in shape growing to 40-75' high with a spread of 40-70'. It can grow as high as 100" with an equal spread.

LANDSCAPE VALUE: Best used in large landscapes such as parks, golf courses and estates. Widely used in Europe, much less so in U.S. blotch and mildew. Significant habit, spring inflorescence and flowers, compound leaves and fall foliage and fruit.

LEAVES: Large palmately compound oppositely arranged leaves with generally 7 leaflets (occasionally 5) lacking petioles. Leaflets 4-10" long and 2-5" wide, ovate in shape with sides that are either concave and tapering to a point or straight and tapering (acuminate or cuneate). The leaflets are attached at the narrow end. The margins are obtusely (semi-circular) double serrate. The underside of the leaf has significant rusty colored hairs along the main veins at where the leaflets attach to the petiole.

FLOWERS: Perfect 0.5" white flowers with a blotch of yellow turning red on each of the 5 grey hoary pubescent petals. The 5-9 stamens project outwards and the superior ovary is 3 celled with 2 ovules in each cell. The style is slender.

FRUIT: A 2-2.5" leathery dehiscent capsule, smooth or spiny with 1-2 seeds in each cell.

BUD: 0.6-1.5" long, dark reddish brown, smooth or slightly finely-downy with overlapping scales (imbricate).

DISEASES AND INSECTS: Leaf blotch and powdery mildew most common. Also susceptible to leaf spot, wood rot, anthracnose, canker, walnut scale, comstock mealybug and white-marked tussock moth

HARDINESS AND RANGE: Zones 3-7

CULTIVARS: "Baumannii" which has double white flowers and longer bloom.