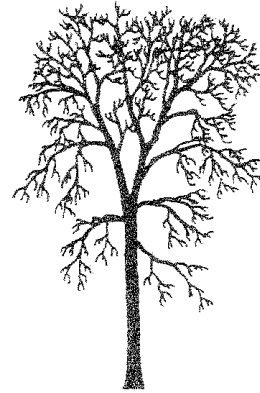
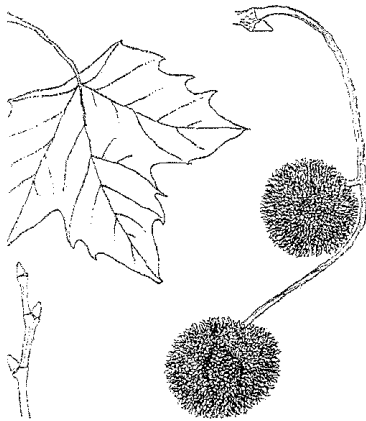


London Plane Tree

Platanus x acerifolia



GENERAL DESCRIPTION: This is the most widely planted shade tree in cities worldwide. It is a hybrid between *P. orientalis* and *P. occidentalis* (American sycamore) discovered in 1663. It is extremely pollution resistant, thrives in a variety of soils, endures soil compaction, is resistant to diseases, provides a broad open shade, has interesting mottled bark and is fast growing. The bark is particularly beautiful peeling into a patch work or creamy white, green-gray, and light brown. The large multiple spreading branches are striking in all seasons.

HABIT AND SIZE: 70-100' tall and 65-80' wide with a massive trunk and sturdy, wide-spreading branches. Its outline is pyramidal when young developing to wide spreading on maturity. The interior is open so that the area under the canopy feels light and airy.

LANDSCAPE VALUE: Extremely widely used (perhaps overused). A highly adaptable tree for large landscapes as well as urban settings, where proper pruning is advised. So heavily planted it is almost a monoculture in some areas which makes any disease problems a serious matter. Excellent year around appeal because of shape and unique bark.

LEAVES: 6-7" long and 8-10" wide 3-5 lobed (very similar to those of maple). The lobes triangular- ovate or broad triangular with none or a few dentations. The sinuses are acute or rounded penetrating one third of the way into the blade. Hairless (glabrous) at maturity. Color is a medium to dark green. The petiole is 2-4" long.

FLOWERS: Inconspicuous male and female flowers appear in April on the same tree (monoecious). Calyx (sepals), corolla (petals), androecium (stamens) and gynecium (pistils) 3-8 units. Inflorescence a dense globular head on a nodding peduncle.

FRUIT: A hard head of numerous single seeded nutlets surrounded by long hairs. The so called "itchy balls" played with by children.

BUD: Lateral buds enclosed by the base of the petiole. Buds 0.25-0.375" long conical and blunt pointed with three scales. The outer scale smooth, glossy dark reddish brown, second green and gummy and the innermost scale covered with long rust colored hairs.

DISEASES AND INSECTS: Cankerstain fungus is very serious as is anthracnose and lace bug.

HARDINESS AND RANGE: Zones 4-9a.

CULTIVARS: 'Bloodgood', 'Columbia', 'Liberty', 'Yarwood' disease resistant.