

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

# Platanus occidentalis

## Sycamore



This fast growing tree is most striking in the winter and early spring, when it's unusual bark contrasts against the blue sky. The reddish-brown bark of the sycamore scales off on the upper trunk and branches, revealing a creamy layer beneath. Leaves are large. Choose the site with care, it tends to drop a lot of twigs and leaves.

**Suggested Companions:** willows (*Salix* sp.), river birch (*Betula nigra*), silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*), swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*)

Photo Credit: Wisconsin State Herbarium,  
by Dennis W. Woodland

Plant Type: Tree  
Size: 60-90' H  
50-80' W

Water Tolerant: Somewhat

Habitat:

River floodplain  
Forested Wetland

Soil: Rich Moist  
Average Garden Soil  
Very Damp/Wet  
Sandy/ Gravelly  
Clay

Exposure: sun  
filtered

Flower Color:

Green  
Yellow

Bloom Time:

June  
May

Other Attributes:  
Winter interest

Plant in:

Groundcover: No