



AMERICAN SYCAMORE

Platanus occidentalis L.

There are historic records of American Sycamore occurring along streams and on rich bottom lands in southern Maine. Currently there are no known native populations in the state. However, sycamore is planted here as an ornamental. Farther south and west it grows to be an enormous tree, often 4-6 feet in diameter and 120 feet tall, trees in Maine however do not attain great size.

The **bark** on the trunk and large limbs is greenish-gray and flakes off in broad scales exposing white patches beneath.

The **leaves** are simple, alternate, 3-5 lobed and light green. The base of the leaf-stalk is hollow, swollen and covers the bud.

The **fruit** head generally occurs singly, is round and about 1 inch in

diameter. It contains a large number of small wedge or shoenail-shaped nutlets, and usually remains on the tree until spring.

The **twigs** are zigzag in shape and are encircled by conspicuous stipules. The winter buds have a single, wrinkled, cap-like scale.

The **wood** is hard, firm, very perishable when exposed to the weather, and liable to warp. In the past, it was used for furniture and interior finish of houses.



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American Sycamore Circumference: 160" Height: 105' Crown Spread: 93' Location: Waterford

