

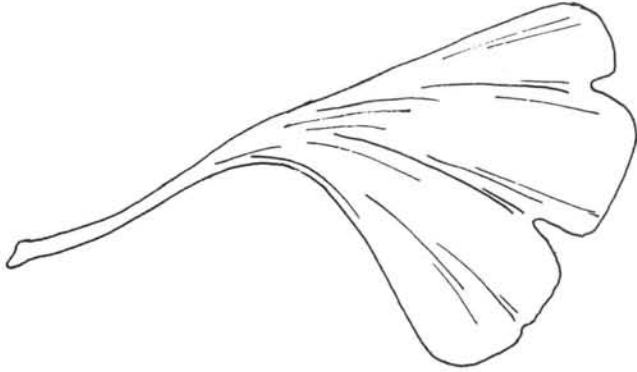
Leaves, Limbs, Needles and Boughs

by Fred D. Opperman

This month's selection will take you back in time, way back, way back to 150 million years ago! Yep, this plant has some history to it. This tree is a true gymnosperm (which is a plant that bears naked seeds without an ovary) as compared to the more common angiosperm which has a fruit that covers the seed.

Ginkgo biloba (gingk'go bi-lo-ba) — Ginkgo or sometimes called Maidenhair Tree.

Leaves: Alternate, simple, in clusters of 3 to 5 on spurs or alternate on long shoots, fan shaped, more or less incised or divided at the broad summit, 2 to 3" across, bright green.



Size: 50 to 80' in height with a tremendously variable speed ranging from 30 to 40' to ultimately wider than high at maturity; the species can grow to 100' or more.

Bud: Imbricate, mounded, often acute, brownish
Stem: Stout, light brown 1st year, becoming gray with stringy peeling bark; prominent blackish spurs evident on stems.



Rate: Slow to medium, probably 10 to 15' over 10 to 12 year period, although with adequate water and fertilizer this tree will grow very fast.

Fruit: Actually not a true fruit, but simply a naked seed; tan to orangish in color, plum-like in shape, 1 to 1½" in length. The fleshy covering on the seed is extremely messy and just plain stinks. The problem in determining the sex of a Ginkgo is that they do not "fruit" until they are quite old, some 20 to 50 years.

Culture: Transplants easily and establishes without difficulty; prefers sandy deep, moderately moist soil but grows in almost any situation; very pH adaptable prune in spring; a durable tree for difficult landscape situations. Displays good soil salt tolerance.

Landscape value: Excellent. Good yellow fall color.

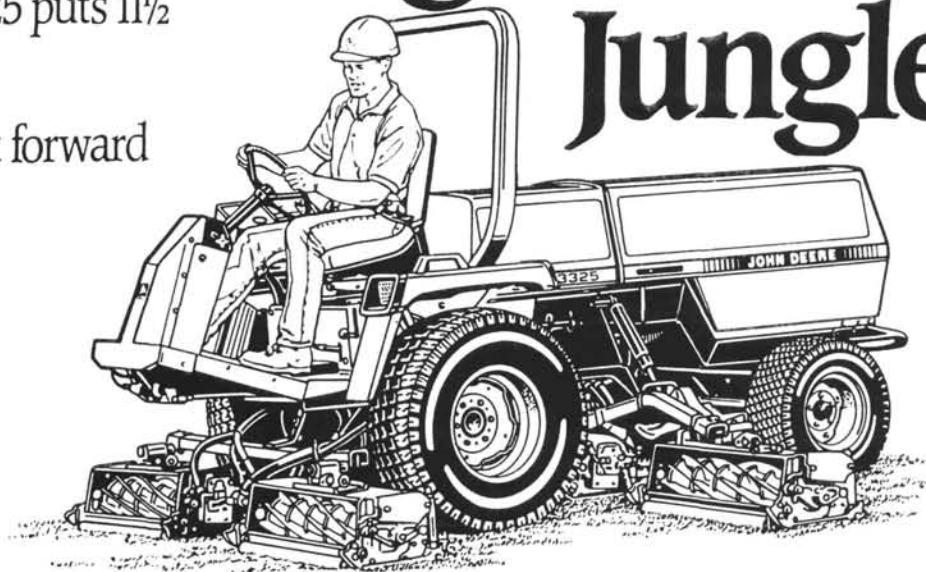
Cultivars: Autumn Golf, Fairmont, Fastigiata, Lakeview, Mayfield, Pendula and Santa Cruz.

Credit: "Manual of Woody Landscape Plants"
by Michael Dirr

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