

Leaves, Limbs, Needles and Boughs

by Fred D. Opperman

This month's selection brings back childhood memories. I can recall that when I saw it blooming it meant only a few more days of school were left and then 3 months of summer vacation. Gee, just think we had 3 months of vacation then, now in our profession one can hardly think of a summer vacation, let alone 3 months of it.

Okay, back to leaves and limbs and put those vacation thoughts away till the snow falls. My childhood memory is of the Ohio Buckeye, *Aesculus glabra*. We had a couple of these trees on the street I lived on and they were spectacular in full bloom.

Leaves: Opposite, palmately compound, with 5 or 7 leaflets; leaflets obovate to oblanceolate, long pointed at the tip, tapering to the base, up to 6 inches long, less than half as wide, toothed along the edges, green and smooth on the upper surface, green or much whitened on the lower surface.



Flowers: Numerous, yellow-green, in large clusters sometimes nearly 1 foot long, appearing in May, the petals of each flower of different lengths.

Fruit: Prickly, spherical or nearly so, up to 1½ inch in diameter, pale brown shiny seed inside this prickly cover. I believe I have to credit this tree on the reason I don't smoke today. We used to hollow out these nuts, get an elderberry stem and then straighten out coat hangers to push the soft pith out of the stem and make a pipe.

Growth Form: Medium tree to 55 feet tall; about as wide; trunk diameter up to 15 inches. Rounded to broad rounded in outline, usually low branched. Foliage is very dense.

Bark: Gray to pale gray, deeply furrowed and roughened when mature.

Twigs: Stout, pale brown, smooth; leaf scars opposite, triangular, with 3 groups of bundle traces.

Buds: ovoid, pointed, reddish-brown to yellowish, up to ¾ inch long, not hairy, not sticky. Lateral buds are smaller.

Wood: Soft, close-grained, light in weight, pale brown to nearly white.

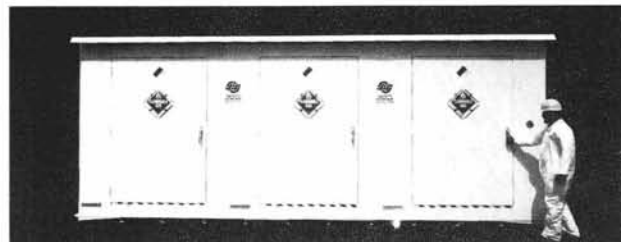
Culture: Transplant in the spring. Likes moist deep, well-drained soils, slightly acid. Full sun or just partial shade.

Distinguishing Features: The Ohio Buckeye differs from the Horse Chestnut by its non-sticky buds. It differs from the Red Buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*) by the greenish-yellow flowers and prickly fruits.



Hazardous Chemical Storage Buildings

Comply with Federal, State and Local Regulations



- Relocatable Turnkey Pre-fabricated Buildings
- Fire Protection
- Accommodates up to Forty 55-Gallon Drums
- Storage Capacity up to 10 Tons
- Available in 22', 15', 10', 8' and 6' Sizes
- Cost Effective
- 500-Gallon Spill Containment Subfloor
- Wide Range of Options
- Storage Tanks
- Storage Cabinets

Call or write today for complete information.

Environmental Safety Systems, Ltd.
800 E. Northwest Hwy., Palatine, IL 60067
Phone: 708/ 705-3854 Fax: 708/ 705-3864
Toll Free: 800/ 852-1809

"OUR REPUTATION KEEPS GROWING"

YOUR COMPLETE SOURCE FOR:

- CONSTRUCTION & REMODELING
- DRAINAGE & IRRIGATION
- TURF & EROSION CONTROL
- PLANTING & DESIGN

DEL TORO
INCORPORATED
LANDSCAPING

DUNDEE, IL. • (708) 426-7200