

American sycamore

Platanus occidentalis



An American sycamore tree can often be easily distinguished from other trees by its mottled exfoliating bark which flakes off in irregular sheets, leaving the surface mottled, and greenish-white, gray and brown. The bark of all trees has to give way to a growing trunk by stretching, splitting, or infilling; the sycamore shows the process more openly than many other trees.

A sycamore can grow to massive proportions, typically reaching up to nearly 100 feet tall and five feet in diameter when grown in deep soils. This species have proven to be a fast growing tree that can withstand the challenges of living in our urban and sub-urban environments. Unlike most trees, sycamores are highly resistant to pollution and salty soils. They also stand up well in inclement weather, such as high winds and hail.