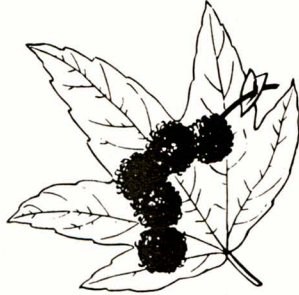


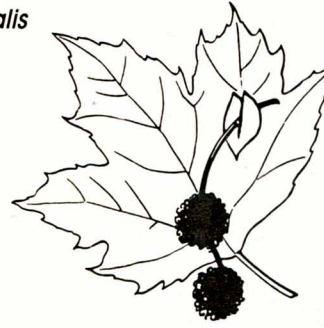
SYCAMORE

Platanus occidentalis



WESTERN SYCAMORE

Platanus racemosa



MAPLE LEAF SYCAMORE

Platanus acerifolia

There are three native species of Sycamore in the United States, all closely related and similar; *Platanus occidentalis*, *Platanus racemosa* and *Platanus acerifolia*. *Platanus orientalis* is seldom found in the United States. The leaf sketches will illustrate variations of the different species.

Platanus racemosa: The Western Sycamore, found on the Coast of California, characteristically bear the flowering heads in racemes of three to six.

Platanus acerifolia: The Maple-leaf Sycamore or London Plane Tree is a hybrid tree planted as a street tree in the Eastern and Western States. The flower heads usually appear in racemes of two. This tree is often erroneously called Oriental Sycamore.

FAMILY: Platanaceae

GENUS: Platanus

SPECIES: occidentalis

COMMON NAMES: Sycamore, Buttonwood, Buttonball and Plane Tree

POLLEN GRAINS: Oblately flattened, 18-20 microns in diameter. Membranes of the three or four broad furrows copiously flecked with granules. Germ pore absent. The exine is thin and finely reticulate pitted.

POLLINATING PERIOD: April and May

DISTRIBUTION: Maine to Central Florida, westward to Minnesota, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Texas. Cultivated throughout most of the United States; especially the Eastern States and Eastern Texas.

ALLERGIC IMPORTANCE: Moderately important.

The common Eastern Sycamore is one of the largest deciduous trees in the East, reaching a height of 130 feet with a trunk diameter of 14 feet. The bark is smooth and exfoliating. The leaves are alternate and palmately lobed with petioles hollow near the base. The flowers are rudimentary and inconspicuous, growing in a curious ball-shaped cluster or head. Male and female flowers are in separate heads.



Platanus occidentalis
(Sycamore)