2026 Native Plant of Distinction: Yellow Buckeye (Aesculus flava)











Photos by John Hagstrom (top) Great Plains Nursery (center), Kollar Nursery (bottom)

Unique Characteristics

When planted on a good site, the yellow buckeye can live a very long life, providing shade and beauty to any landscape. It is relatively free of diseases and pests that commonly affect other buckeyes. It is the tallest of the buckeye species.

Plant type: Tree

Native Range: Eastern North America, except New

England & Florida

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Medium

Soil: Moist, deep, well-drained soil

Height: Up to 100 feet, typically 60-75 feet

Spread: 30 to 40 feet

Wildlife: Hummingbirds & butterflies sip

flower nectar, small mammals

consume the nuts

Hardiness Zones: 4-8

Bloom Time: Showy yellow flowers in May

Fall Color: Yellow, orange, red

Uses: Before the advent of synthetic materials, the wood was used to make artificial limbs due to its light

weight and resistance to splitting.

