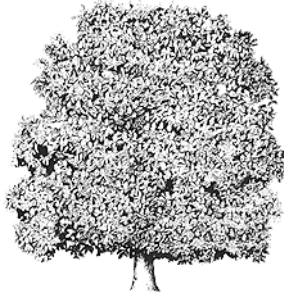


# *Aesculus hippocastanum* - European Horsechestnut, Common Horsechestnut (*Hippocastanaceae*)

*Aesculus hippocastanum* is a large deciduous tree, known for its tall stately habit, prominent white flowers, and large nuts. European Horsechestnut is not widely planted in the U.S. because of potentially severe problems with leaf scorch. It is extremely common in Western Europe.

## Form



summers (common in Ohio)  
-low availability in B&B form

## Foliage

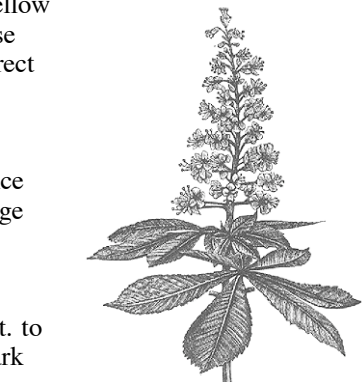
-opposite arrangement  
-dark green;  
deciduous;  
palmately compound with 7 (sometimes 5) leaflets that fuse at their bases (no petiolules)  
-obovate leaflets (widest near the apex); acuminate (narrow tip); doubly serrate  
-early to leaf out; orange pubescence on emerging petiole  
-susceptible to unsightly leaf scorch and/or powdery mildew by Aug.  
-autumn color - poor; scorched light brown to brown-yellow

## Flowers

-white with red and yellow blotches at corolla base  
-12" long x 4" wide erect inflorescence of many solitary flowers; spectacular display  
-mid-May; inflorescence stands out above foliage

## Fruit

-light brown spiny capsule  
-splitting in Sept.-Oct. to yield 1 or 2 - 1.25" dark brown nuts with a prominent white "buck eye"



## FEATURES

-large tree  
-to 80' tall x 40' wide  
-upright oval  
-medium growth rate

## Culture

-full sun to partial shade  
-prefers a moist, well-drained soil  
-tolerates urban stress but will not look attractive due to leaf scorch, especially in hot, dry

## Twigs

-gray stout stem; prominent brown leaf scars  
-very large terminal dark brown bud(s) with large scales and a coating of shiny, **sticky** resin in late autumn through late winter  
-lateral buds smaller; branches light gray, rough

## Trunk

-dark gray to brown  
-fissured then becoming platy; eventually exposing a light orange interior bark; noticeable and quite ornamental

## USAGE

### Function

-specimen and shade tree for large properties like campuses  
-widely grown in Europe as a street tree where it seems less susceptible to disfiguring leaf scorch

### Texture

-bold in foliage and when bare

### Assets

-stately specimen tree with early prominent white inflorescences

### Liabilities

-moderate to severe leaf scorch or powdery mildew in mid- to late-summer

### Habitat

-Zones 4 to 7  
-Native to Europe

## SELECTIONS

### Alternates

-large specimen trees (*Fagus sylvatica*, *Quercus macrocarpa*, *Q. bicolor*, etc); spring white-flowering trees

### Cultivars - Variants - Related species

-*Aesculus hippocastanum* 'Baumannii' - Baumannii Horsechestnut - double white-petaled inflorescences that last longer than the species yet are sterile (produce no nuts)  
-*Aesculus x carnea* - Red Horsechestnut - hybrid between European Horsechestnut and Red Buckeye; to 40' x 20' with smaller pink inflorescences; does not show foliar diseases as do most other Buckeyes and Horsechestnuts; often used as a street or specimen tree; B&B; low availability; known as an urban-tolerant alternative where a smaller Common Horsechestnut or a larger Red Buckeye is desired

-*Aesculus x carnea* 'Briotii' - Briotii Red Horsechestnut - has deeper red inflorescences