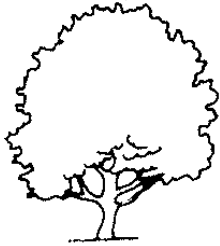


Aesculus pavia - Red Buckeye (*Hippocastanaceae*)

Aesculus pavia is a small deciduous tree or large shrub that is native to the Southeastern U.S. Red Buckeye has considerable interest in spring with its showy red flowers. It's a good plant for use in small areas.

Form



FEATURES

- single- or multi-trunked small tree or large shrub
- to 20' tall x 20' wide
- upright oval to rounded
- slow to medium growth rate

Culture

- does best in full sun or partial shade in a moist, well-drained, rich soil; prefers slightly acidic

soils, but will tolerate neutral to slightly alkaline soils

-survives moderate stress but will not look attractive

-rare availability; B&B

-plant in moist location on north or east side of structures

-little maintenance required; rarely does it need pruning, mainly for damaged branches

Foliage

-dark green; deciduous; opposite arrangement

-palmately compound with 5 leaflets; obovate; acuminate tips; finely serrated; glabrous;

-petiolules distinct; petiole and petiolules emerging purple-red

-less susceptible to leaf scorch and/or powdery mildew than European Horsechestnut

-autumn color poor green to yellow-brown; leaves defoliate by late Sept.



Flowers

-6" long x 2" wide inflorescence of many solitary flowers

-showy; stands out above foliage

-typically red, but also found with pink, pale orange and yellow; mid- to late-May

Fruits

-yellow-brown to light orange smooth capsule

-splitting in Sept.-Oct. to yield one or two 1" yellow-brown nuts with a prominent white "eye of the buck"

Twigs

-olive brown stout stem

-brown leaf scars

-large terminal tan buds with prominent scales

-lateral buds much smaller

-branches becoming light gray and fairly smooth

Trunk

-ash-gray

-lightly fissured

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Function

-specimen, foundation, or entranceway small tree

Texture

-medium in foliage and when bare

Assets

-showy red inflorescences in spring

-reputedly tolerant of salt spray

Liabilities

-some leaf scorch or powdery mildew in mid-summer (but much less than Horsechestnut)

-may occasionally be susceptible to webworms

Habitat

-Zone 4

-Native to Southeastern U.S.

SELECTIONS

Alternates

-small accent trees that have attractive spring flowers (*Amelanchier* spp., *Cornus florida*, *Cornus kousa*,

Crataegus spp., *Malus* cultivars, etc.)

Cultivars - Variants - Related species

-species is the only form available

-*Aesculus X carnea* - Red Horsechestnut - hybrid of *A. hippocastanum* and *A. pavia* and is more drought tolerant than *A. hippocastanum*. It can become a very large tree. The cultivar 'Briotii' (Briotii Red Horsechestnut) has large, bright red flowers and is the most popular cultivar.