**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.

**FEATURES**

**Form**
- 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

**USAGE**

**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.