

# **sycamore**

## *Platanus occidentalis*

### **FEATURES**

The sycamore tree may reach more than 100 feet tall. Its bark is red-brown when young, breaking into scales when older. The older bark falls off in patches to reveal the white inner bark. The bright green leaves are simple in structure and divided into three or five shallow, sharp-pointed lobes. Leaves may grow to eight inches long and often are as wide or wider than they are long. Flowers are arranged in dense, round heads. Male and female flowers are separate but located on the same tree. Fruits are round, light brown heads up to one inch in diameter, each head containing many small seeds.

### **BEHAVIORS**

The sycamore grows in bottomland woods, along streams and around lakes and ponds. This tree flowers from April through June. Its fruits are a good source of food for birds in winter.

### **TAXONOMY**

Kingdom: Plantae  
Division: Magnoliophyta  
Class: Magnoliopsida  
Order: Proteales  
Family: Platanaceae

### **ILLINOIS STATUS**

common, native

### **ILLINOIS RANGE**



tree











**Aquatic Habitats**

bottomland forests; lakes, ponds and reservoirs; rivers and streams

**Woodland Habitats**

bottomland forests

**Prairie and Edge Habitats**

none