

White Mulberry (*Morus alba*)

The White Mulberry is a small, deciduous tree that can grow to 50 feet tall with a similar spread. It has yellowish green flowers from March through April. It is very adaptable to all soils.

The White Mulberry is very similar to the native Red Mulberry, but may be distinguished by the leaves. The White Mulberry leaves have glossy surfaces whereas the leaves of the Red Mulberry do not. The White Mulberry is found throughout the United States, where it invades old fields, urban lots, roadsides, forest edges, and other disturbed areas. It poses an ecological threat by displacing native species, possibly hybridizing with and transmitting a root disease to the native Red Mulberry. The White Mulberry is native to Asia and was introduced in colonial times as a food source for silkworms.

In addition to being an exotic invasive, the fruit of the White Mulberry is very messy particularly after it has passed through a bird. The berries have a laxative in them that causes the birds to create a large mess. This tree will not be planted in the urban forest of New Albany.