

## Kentucky Coffee Tree (*Gymnocladus dioicus*)

The Kentucky Coffee Tree has a reputation as a tough species, and is an excellent choice for parks, golf courses, and other large areas. It is also widely used as an ornamental or street tree. It can grow up to 75 feet tall with a spread of up to 50 feet.

The Kentucky Coffee Tree's picturesque profile stands out in all seasons and can be attributed to a unique growth habit of coarse, ascending branches that often form a narrow crown. It produces pyramidal clusters of greenish-white flowers that bloom at the same time leaves are maturing (late May to early June). The flowers of the female trees have a rose-like fragrance. It is also one of the last trees to leaf out in the spring.

The Kentucky Coffee Tree is native to the central states of America from Pennsylvania to Nebraska and from Minnesota to Oklahoma. This tree gets its name because early Kentucky settlers noticed the resemblance of its seeds to coffee beans. In earlier times, its wood was used in the construction of railway sleeper cars.