

PLATANACEAE – SYCAMORE OR PLANE-TREE FAMILY

Plant: large trees

Stem: bark usually smooth, tends to be light-colored and sometimes mottled beneath but dark and fissured on old stems of some species; often peels in flakes: twigs often slender, zigzag with ring scars

Root:

Leaves: deciduous, simple, alternate, long stalked; 3-9, mostly 5-7 palmately lobed, usually with teeth and star-shaped hairs; usually palmately veined; 2 stipules, large and united at base

Flowers: imperfect (monoecious), flowers tiny in spherical heads; 3-7 sepals, usually greenish and red-tinged; crowded in balls on drooping stalk with a fused calyx and few or no petals; staminate flowers with tiny petals and sepals, 3-7 stamens: pistillate flowers usually lacks petals, ovary superior, 3-5 or 9 carpels

Fruit: linear, 4-angled, 1 seeded nutlets with many long hairs

Other: Dicotyledons Group

Genera: 1 genus - *Platanus* (sycamore)

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Sycamore [Plane-Tree]; *Platanus occidentalis* L.

Sycamore [Plane-Tree]

Platanus occidentalis L.

Platanaceae (Plane-Tree Family)

Maumee river Metroparks, Lucas
County, Ohio

Notes: tree; flowers in drooping clusters; leaves usually not hairy at maturity, 3-5 lobed, large teeth, leafstalk covers buds, leafy stipules form ring scars on winter twigs; bark with upper trunk peeling or exfoliating, white to yellowish; twigs hairy early; winter buds with a single, conical scale, many bundle scars; fruits small seeds with a tuft of hair, in tight hanging balls, spring

[V Max Brown, 2004]

