

American Yellowwood

Cladrastis kentuckea

Description: Slow growing round headed flowering tree

Height: 30'-50'

Leaves: Alternate, compound, 7 to 9 leaflets entire leaf 8 to 12" long, bright green unimpressive yellow fall color

Bark: Thin gray to light brown, resembling beech bark with slight protuberances of ridges and horizontal wrinkles

Flowers: White/cream, fragrant, borne in long pendulous panicles in late May to early June. In full flower the tree appears to be dripping with white rain.

Fruit: Brown pod containing 4 to 6 flat brown seeds, October 2 ½-4" long. The tree produces an abundance of flowers and fruit every 3rd year which may cause a litter problem in those years.

Habitat: tolerates high pH soils and acid situations. Native on limestone cliffs and ridge full sun

Discussion: Excellent tree for flowers and foliage; the medium size and spreading habit make it a choice shade tree for smaller properties; only prune in summer as it tends to bleed profusely in Winter and early Spring

