

# American Sycamore

## ***Platanus occidentalis***

The American Sycamore is usually identified by its trunk rather than its leaves. As the tree grows, the bark comes off leaving a pale surface. This behavior is similar to a snake shedding its skin to grow.

The leaves on the tree resemble the maple tree, but can be much larger. The tree itself is the largest deciduous tree (loses its leaves in winter) in North America.

The tree is long-lived and can grow up to 600 years old.

Like the Magnolia, this tree species is ancient, one of the oldest species on the earth.

The tree is fast growing. This, combined with its height and large canopy makes it popular as a shade tree. Just ask the squirrels – they like to nest in Sycamores.



This sign provided by Polk County Fresh Water Supply District #2