

F2222 (July 2024)

Joseph Zeleznik, Ph.D., Extension Forester

North Dakota Tree Selector

General

Scientific Name: *Aesculus glabra*

Family: Sapindaceae (Soapberry)

Hardiness: Zone 3

Leaves: Deciduous

Plant Type: Tree

Growth

Rate: Medium

Mature Height: 25-45'

Longevity: Medium

Power Line: No

Ornamental

Flowers: Yellow

Fruit: Brown spiny husks enclosing large, shiny seeds

Fall Color: Maroon to orange to red to yellow

Ohio Buckeye

Description

A medium-sized tree with an oval to rounded crown. Unique characteristics include palmate compound leaves, terminal candle-like flowers and large globose fruits. The species is somewhat susceptible to leaf scorch in the summer, though cultivars have usually don't suffer this problem. Can withstand high-pH soils. The largest buckeye in North Dakota is 49 feet tall with a canopy spread of 38 feet.

Preferences

Light: Full sun to light shade.

Water: Prefers moist, well drained soils.

Soil: Adaptable to a wide variety of soils except extremely dry.

Comments

Flowers start white with a blotch on yellow at the base and transition to red up the flower stem. Buckeye cultivars, including hybrids, that do well in North Dakota include:

- 'Autumn Splendor' – University of Minnesota release. Maroon.
- 'Homestead' – Released by SDSU, Brookings, SD. Orange.
- Prairie Torch® – NDSU release with orange-red fall color.
- Early Glow™ – Selected for its early, bright-red fall foliage.



Credits: North Dakota Tree Selector Website, Manual of Woody Landscape Plants 6th edition.