

Red Buckeye

Aesculus pavia var. *pavia*

Secondary Names:

Scarlet Buckeye

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Texas Native: Yes No

Firewise: Yes No



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Tree Description:

A woodland shrub or small tree to about 20 feet tall and a diameter up to 12", with thick, ascending branches and a rounded crown.

Range/Site Description:

Occurs in east and central Texas, to the edge of the Edwards Plateau, mostly on rich soils and along streams.

Leaf:

Leaves are opposite and compound; the 5 (rarely 7) smooth, glossy, dark green leaflets are arranged palmately and measure 3" to 6" long, with coarsely serrated edges. Leaves turn yellowish-brown and drop in late summer or early fall.

Flower:

A cluster of narrow, tubular, inch-long red flowers appears at the end of a stalk 4" to 8" long, in April or May, after the leaves.

Fruit:

A capsule, generally round, 1" to 2" in diameter, pale brown and smooth, splitting into two or three sections and exposing 1-3 brown, shiny seeds, each about 1" wide.

Bark:

Tight and smooth on young trees, brown to gray, developing thin scales on older trunks that flake off.

Wood:

Wood is light, soft and weak, and decays rapidly when exposed. It has been used for woodenware, artificial limbs, paper pulp, lumber, and fuel.

Similar Species:

Ohio buckeye (*Aesculus glabra*) has yellowish flowers, may be found in northeast Texas; yellow wooly buckeye (*A. pavia* var. *flavescens*) found on Edwards Plateau; Texas buckeye (*A. glabra* var. *arguta*) has 7-11 leaflets and occurs in Central Texas.

Interesting Facts:

The powdered bark was once used for toothaches and ulcers, the crushed fruit as a fish poison.