



Kentucky Coffeetree

Gymnocladus dioica

Fabaceae

Description

Similar to Chickory root, a tea from the roasted seeds was consumed by Native Americans and was used by settlers as a coffee alternative. In the winter, the large seed pods hang from the tree and rattle in the wind. It was also a favorite food of pleistocene megafauna (mammoths and ground sloths) and was much more abundant because of their ability to disperse the seeds after eating them.

General Information

Zone: 3-8
Height: 60-75'
Width: 40-50'
Habit: Upright,
Rounded
Growth Rate: >24" per year

Soil Texture: Clay, Loam,
Sand
Soil pH: Acidic-
Alkaline
Exposure: Full Sun
Water Needs: Average
Soil Drainage: Well-Drained
**Other
Attributes:**

Fall Color: Yellow,
Brown
Bloom Color: Green, White
Bloom Time: May-June
Fragrance: Yes
Fruit Color: Brown
Fruiting Time: Fall
Fruit Flavor: Inedible
Attracts: Birds, Small
Mammals

Resources:

[Plants A to Z: Find Plant Names by Letter \(thespruce.com\)](https://www.thespruce.com/plants-a-to-z-find-plant-names-by-letter)
[Find a Plant | NC Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox \(ncsu.edu\)](https://www.ncsu.edu/extension/gardener-plant-toolbox/)
[Trees and Plants | The Morton Arboretum](https://www.mortonarboretum.org/)
[WSU PNW Plants](https://www.wsu.edu/pnw/plants/)

[The Tree Guide at arborday.org](https://www.arborday.org/tree-guide/)
[Woody Plants Catalog | The UFOR Nursery & Lab \(umn.edu\)](https://www.ufor-nursery.com/woody-plants-catalog/)
[Plant Finder \(missouribotanicalgarden.org\)](https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/plant-finder/)
[N.D. Tree Handbook \(ndsu.edu\)](https://www.ndsu.edu/tree-handbook/)