

# Red Buckeye

By Alex Carver and Inman Love – HORT 461 – Advanced Landscape Design

<b>Latin name:</b> <i>Aesculus pavia</i>	<b>Texture:</b> Coarse <sup>13</sup>
<b>Common name:</b> Red buckeye	<b>Growth rate:</b> Slow to moderate <sup>12</sup>
<b>Flowers:</b> Bright red panicles <sup>12</sup>	<b>Light:</b> Full sun to part shade <sup>12</sup>
<b>Fruit or cones:</b> Light brown seed capsules, buckeyes <sup>12</sup>	<b>Moisture:</b> Moist, well drained soils <sup>13</sup>
<b>Height &amp; Width:</b> 12-15 feet <sup>12</sup>	<b>Soil*:</b> Clay tolerant <sup>12</sup>
<b>Type:</b> Deciduous <sup>12</sup>	<b>Zones:</b> 4-8 <sup>12</sup>
<b>Habit:</b> Irregular rounded crown <sup>12</sup>	<b>Origin:</b> Southeastern US <sup>16</sup>
<b>Wetland indicator category**:</b> FAC <sup>17</sup>	<b>Ecosystem benefits:</b> Attracts pollinators, shelter for bird species <sup>10</sup>

(Numbers identify sources listed)

**Features:** Showy, erect panicles of red to orange-red, tubular flowers. Smooth, light brown seed capsules encase seeds that ripen in the fall. Seeds are poisonous and avoided by most wildlife<sup>12</sup>.

**Siting:** Specimen flowering tree, hedge, or screen<sup>12</sup>.

**Care:** Plant so root flare is visible at soil surface<sup>14</sup>. At planting, water the root ball daily with two gallons of water per inch of trunk diameter for two weeks, every other day for two months and then weekly until established. Modify water recommendations to reflect site drainage and rainfall. Apply 3" of mulch over the planted area. Do not allow mulch to touch the trunk<sup>14</sup>.

**Pests:** Leaf blotch can be a significant problem<sup>12</sup>. Plants are relatively pest resistant if cultural preferences are met.

This plant does not appear on the following invasive plant lists on (4/6/15):

✗ USDA SC Invasive Plant Species Web site at <http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/plants/main.shtml>

✗ SC Exotic Plant Pest Council Web site at <http://www.se-eppc.org/southcarolina/>

#### Sources:

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- (3) Armitage, A. (2008). *Herbaceous perennial plants: A treatise on their identification, culture, and garden attributes*. Athens, GA: University of Georgia.
- (4) Clemson Cooperative Extension Home and Garden Information Center. (2011). *Flowers fact sheets*. Retrieved from <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/plants/landscape/flowers/>
- (5) Clemson Cooperative Extension Home and Garden Information Center. (2011). *Groundcovers & vines fact sheets*. Retrieved from <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/plants/landscape/groundcovers/>
- (6) Clemson Cooperative Extension Home and Garden Information Center. (2011). *Trees*. Retrieved from <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/plants/landscape/trees/>
- (7) Clemson Cooperative Extension Home and Garden Information Center. (2011). *Shrubs*. Retrieved from <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/plants/landscape/shrubs/>
- (8) Dirr, M. A. (2009). *Manual of woody landscape plants*. Champaign, IL: Stipes Publishing.
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- (10) Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center University of Texas at Austin. (2012). *Native plant information network*. Retrieved from <http://www.wildflower.org/explore/>



Image source: <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/all/aesculus-pavia/>

- (11) McMillan, P., Plant taxonomist Clemson University, personal communication. Retrieved from [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/departments\\_envhort-trees](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/departments_envhort-trees)
  - (12) Missouri Botanical Garden Kemper Center for Home Gardening. *Plant finder*. Retrieved from <http://www.mobot.org/gardeninghelp/plantfinder/Alpha.asp>
  - (13) North Carolina State University (2005). *Plant fact sheets*. Retrieved from <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/factsheets/index.html>
  - (14) Strother, E. V., Ham, D. L., Gilland, L. (2003) *Urban tree species guide: Choosing the right tree for the right place*. Columbia, SC: South Carolina Forestry Commission.
  - (15) University of Florida, IFAS Extension. (2011). *Southern trees fact sheet*.
  - (16) USDA. *Plant profile*. (n/d). Retrieved from <http://plants.usda.gov/java/>
  - (17) USDA. *Plant wetland indicator status*. (n/d). Retrieved from <http://plants.usda.gov/wetland.html>
  - (18) Vincent, E., Environmental horticulturist Clemson University, personal communication.
- \*Soil pH is determined using a professional soil test. Contact your Clemson University County Extension service for assistance [www.clemson.edu/extension/](http://www.clemson.edu/extension/). Click on "local offices".**
- \*\*2012 Plant Wetland Indicator categories (quantitative derived) <http://plants.usda.gov/wetinfo.html>**