

YELLOW BUCKEYE

Aesculus octandra Marsh.

OTHER COMMON NAMES: Buckeye, Sweet buckeye, Large buckeye.

FORM: Usually less than 60 feet in height, but may reach a height of 90 feet with a tall straight trunk 2 1/2-3 feet in diameter and with rather small pendulous branches.

BARK: Of the trunk 3/4 inch thick, light brown to grayish-brown, divided by shallow fissures, the surface separating into small scales.

TWIGS: Stout, at first hairy, later becoming smooth, reddish-brown to ashy-gray, slightly ill-smelling when bruised.

LEAVES: Opposite; digitately compound with 5, occasionally 7, more or less stalked leaflets that are nearly oval, 4-10 inches long, finely toothed on the margin, long-pointed at apex, narrowed at the base, dark green and smooth on the upper surface when mature, yellowish-green and somewhat hairy on under surface.

FLOWERS: Small, yellow or purplish, with 4 connivent petals, borne in finely hairy terminal panicles about 4-12 inches long, stamens are included in the yellow corolla.

FRUIT: A capsule 2-3 inches long, generally 2 or more seeded; seeds small reddish-brown lustrous, 3/4-1 1/2 inch broad, valves of the capsule thin, pale brown, not spiny or warty.

WINTER BUDS: Opposite, about 4/5-2 inches long, non-resinous, blunt-pointed; bud scales nearly triangular, outer bud scales reddish-brown with a thin bluish bloom; inner bud scales yellowish-green.

WOOD: Similar to that of the Ohio buckeye, but lighter in weight.

USES: Landscaping. Historical uses: artificial limbs, woodenware.

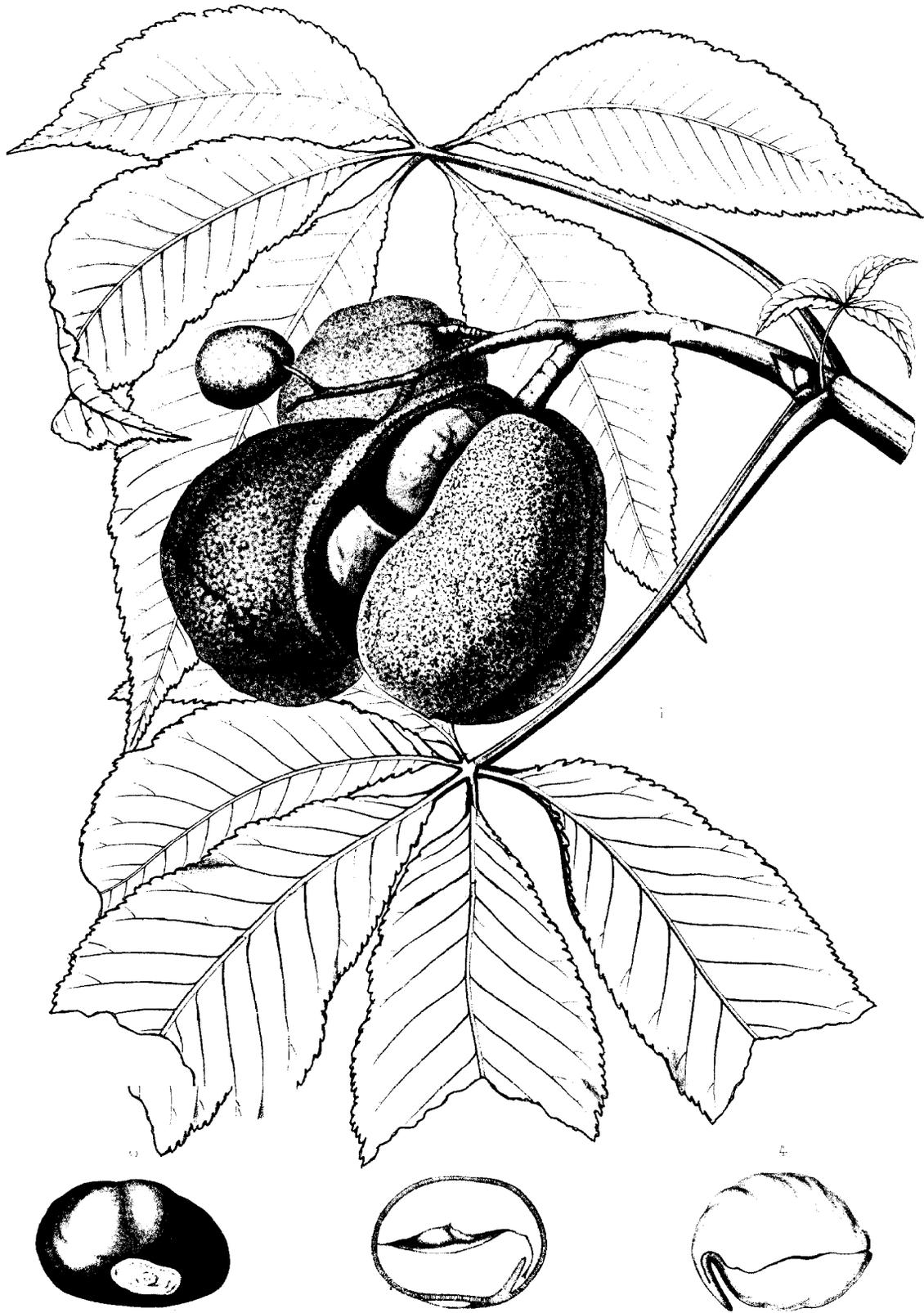
Prefers rich bottom-lands, common along or near streams, usually in mixture with hardwoods.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: Valves of the capsule are smooth; two or more seed in a capsule; buds are non-resinous.

DISTRIBUTION IN ALABAMA: Reported from Madison and Jackson Counties, probably in other northern counties.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE

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| 1. A fruiting branch | 3. Vertical section of a seed |
| 2. A seed | 4. An embryo |



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