

LONDON PLANETREE

[Planetree can be one word or two depending on the field guide]

Platanus 'X acerifolia'

The London planetree is a hybrid of the Oriental plane and the American sycamore that originated in England and is highly resistant to the anthracnose disease which is found on the American sycamore. This large deciduous tree of the Sycamore family grows to a height of 80' and develops very large diameter trunks. London planetree is well suited for urban conditions, tolerates compacted soils and drought. It transplants readily and is adaptable to a wide range of sites, but needs lots of open space.

The leaves are downy initially, but soon become glossy and smooth. The leaves are smaller, more deeply lobed and have fewer teeth than the American sycamore. The tree usually has 2 fruit balls per stalk. The most striking feature of the London planetree is its flaking bark that peels to reveal a lighter colored bark underneath.



It is one of the earlier types of trees planted through the Arbor Day tree replacement program. Three London planetrees were planted in 2004 along the west inside stone wall that borders Market Street. They join an already existing line of eleven mature London planetrees. The mature London planetrees, with their two-toned peeling bark, are quite a striking feature whether seen from inside the cemetery wall or from Market Street.

