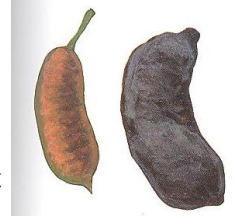


KENTUCKY COFFEE TREE

Gymnocladus dioica

Deciduous. Medium to large tree often 60' tall. The crown is open, domed, or conical. Leaves huge, 30", bipinnately compound, 5-9 pairs of leaflets, each with 6-14 oval, pointed subleaflets 2-1¼". The leaves develop late and drop early. The underleaf is pale green. The fall color is yellow. The flowers are small, whitish, fragrant, clustered on 4" spikes at twig tips in early spring (April-June), male and female on separate trees. Fruit pods are 5-10" long, leathery, very stout, hanging, orange-brown or red-brown, turning blackish; persist into winter and fall without opening. The winter twigs stout, untidy, upright, some retain slender curved stalks and oval fruit pods. The bark of young trunks is pale gray, breaking into long shallow ridges with orange furrows. The older trunks have long, narrow scaly ridges, small curled scales. With stout shoots and enormous leaves, Kentucky Coffee trees, from central and eastern United States are unmistakable. The seeds were sometimes roasted and used as a coffee substitute.



There is only one Kentucky Coffee Tree on the property. It is a baby that was planted as part of the 2014 Arbor Day tree plantings. It is planted on the east side midway down Baber Ave. inside the main gate entrance. When these young saplings are planted, it is hard to imagine them eventually growing into a 60' tall tree. The tininess of the baby planting is evident when photographed with a nearby very tall Tuliptree.

