

Large Tree (over 30')
Deciduous conifer

Map #31

Ginkgo
(*Ginkgo biloba*)
Family: *Ginkgoaceae*



Leaves: simple, fan shaped, usually two lobes, unique vein pattern that follows the leaf shape (dichotomous); fall - excellent yellow, may fall all at once.

Buds: alternate (but may appear whorled), borne on spur growth, mounded appearance.

Stems: prominent spurs, light brown first year turning gray and stringy (onion skin) second year.

Bark: gray-brown ridges with dark furrows.

Flowers: male and female flowers both very small and inconspicuous.

Fruits: not a true fruit, but a naked seed, orange, plum shaped, the flesh stinks, but the seed is edible.

Habit: young – pyramidal or may be very gawky; old – wide spreading but very variable.

Culture: Very adaptable. Tolerant of urban conditions. Full sun. Slow growing. A wonderful broad-leaved deciduous conifer with unique foliage and vivid yellow fall color. Separate male and female plants. Plant only males, as females bear large numbers of fruit that emit a fowl odor when decaying.

Cultivars: 'Fastigiata' - An attractive and useful conical form that can be either male or female. More than one form is sold under this name in the trade. 'Princeton Sentry' This selection is both columnar and male, eliminating the concern about "fruit" production in the landscape. Princeton Sentry is the trademarked name for the cultivar 'PNI 2720'.

Miscellaneous: this is the only species in this genus and family. Found in fossil records from prehistoric times therefore also called the Dinosaur Tree. A deciduous conifer.

Related species: None



Fall color is spectacular.



'Princeton Sentry'



'Fastigiata'

Credits: Photos from: www.midwestlandscapeplants.org and various other .edu websites unless noted. Text from: "Manual of Woody Landscape Plants" by Michael Dirr; "Tree Identification Characteristics (abridged)" from the University of Illinois Extension; www.midwestlandscapeplants.org; and misc. other sources. This publication may not be sold except to cover the cost of reproduction when used as part of an educational program of the University of Wisconsin-Extension.