



*Gymnocladus dioica*

Kentucky Coffeetree (page 1 of 2)

Trees are dioecious. The inflorescences of both male and female trees are racemes or panicles. Perfect flowers can occur.



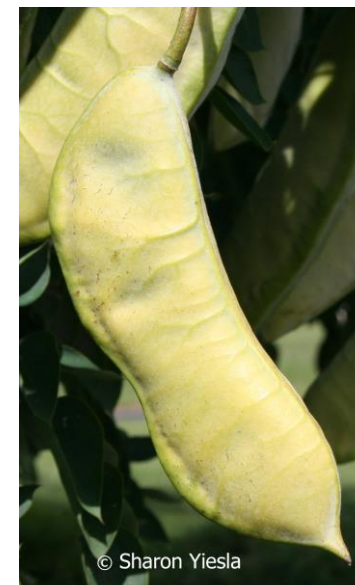
The alternate leaves are bipinnately compound, up to 2 or 3 feet long. The outlined section shows one leaf. Leaflets are ovate with entire margins.



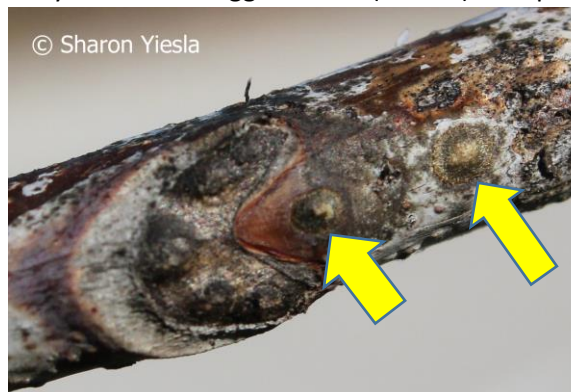
Male and female flowers are very similar in appearance, with 5 greenish-white petals alternating with 5 sepals that extend out of a tubular calyx. The outside of the calyx tube has a purplish cast.



The fruit is a thick legume up to 6 inches long; green, maturing to dark brown. Each legume contains a few, large hard seeds, surrounded by a thick yellow-green pulp.



The stem has a mottled appearance and may appear dead in winter. There is no terminal bud. Lateral buds are small and often in groups of 2 or 3 above the leaf scar. They look like an egg in a nest (arrows). The pith inside the stem is salmon-colored.





Mature form is somewhat irregular with a number of large branches and relatively few smaller twigs. Height is commonly around 60-70 feet, but the tree can get up to 100 feet tall.



Fall color is variable, yellow to yellow-green.



Bark is characterized by thin, flaky ridges that curl outward along their sides.

