

Aesculus pavia

Red buckeye



Sources:

Friends of the Louisiana State Arboretum.

Louisiana Trees, first edition, Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry.

The Hippocastanaceae Family

This deciduous shrub or short tree has palmately, opposite, compound leaves and its bark is gray-brown, smooth to superficially fissured.

Habitat:

It prefers shade and can grow even in drought environments.

Interesting Facts:

The Red Buckeye's large seed is said to resemble a deer's eye. Native Americans considered it a good luck charm.

Fruit:

Three-part smooth husk containing 1 to 3 large shiny brown seeds, maturing in the fall.

Warning: Seeds are deadly poisonous if eaten!

Flower:

The flower has five white petals, red and white stamens, .625" wide, in clusters during early spring.

Wildlife value:

Although, hummingbirds love the nectar, the high content of toxins in the plant make it a poor food source for birds and mammals.