

KENTUCKY COFFEETREE

GYMNOCLADUS DIOICA

PLANT CHARACTERISTICS

Size

60 – 80' high, 40 – 55' wide

Sun/Shade

Full Sun

Water

Medium

Maintenance

Low

Life Span

Perennial Tree, Zones 3-8

Description

Gymnocladus dioica, also known as Kentucky Coffeetree, is a deciduous tree in the legume family whose fertilized seeds can be roasted as a coffee substitute but the unroasted pods and seeds are toxic. This is a dioecious plant (separate male and female trees) with each producing greenish-white blooms in May and June. The male tree produces 4" blooms. The fertilized female tree will produce fragrant blooms up to 12" long that are followed by reddish-brown pads that ripen in October and last well into winter. Male trees are sometimes considered more desirable because they lack the pods that can litter the ground. The foliage does not appear until late spring and is one of the first trees to drop its leaves in the fall. They are good landscape trees for large lawns and parks and have no serious insect or disease problems.

Source: [Missouri Botanical Garden](https://www.mobot.org/mobot/research/education/fieldnotes/ky-coffeetree/)



Have questions or need help?
Contact us at GreenHelpLine@gmail.com.

