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Cladrastis lutea

[Synonyms : *Cladrastis albiflora*, *Cladrastis fragrans*, *Cladrastis kentuckensis*, *Cladrastis kentukea*, *Cladrastis tinctoria*, *Sophora kentukea*, *Virgilia alba*, *Virgilia kentuckensis*, *Virgilia lutea*]

YELLOW ASH is a deciduous tree. Native to south-eastern North America it has small pea-like, white flowers (which have a vanilla-like fragrance, *Vanilla planifolia*) and leaves which turn orange and yellow in Autumn.

It is also known as American yellow wood, Gopher wood, *Gulved* (Swedish), Kentucky yellowwood, *Lakkipuu* (Finnish), *Virgilia*, and Yellow wood.

Although yellow when first cut the heartwood changes to brownish-yellow upon contact with the air.

Lutea means 'deep yellow' and refers to the wood.

The North American Cherokee Indians used the brittle wood for carving and also for building.

Heartwood and roots are the source of a yellow dye.

Yellow ash was introduced to Britain in 1812.

The strong heavy wood is used for making gunstocks.