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Platanus occidentalis

[Synonyms : *Platanus occidentalis* var. *glabrata*]

AMERICAN PLANE is a deciduous tree. Native to north-eastern North America it has small greenish flowers, and leaves that turn russet brown in Autumn.

It is also known as American planetree, American sycamore, Buttonball, Buttonball tree, Buttonwood, California button, California sycamore, Eastern sycamore, Lacewood, Oriental planetree, Oriental sycamore, Plane, Planetree, *Platane d'Occident* (French), *Platan západní* (Czech), Quartered sycamore, Sycamore, Water beech, and Western plane.

Warning – while the leaves unfurl tiny hairs are released that can cause eye and throat irritation and bronchial difficulties.

The wood as veneer is generally known as 'lacewood'.

Occidentalis means 'of western (especially North American)'.

The American plane is one of the parents of the British hybrid plane tree familiar in towns and cities on those Islands. This tree is resistant to pollution a quality that recommends it to town planners.

In the past the hard and strong wood has been used for making furniture (the sides of drawers particularly), interior finishing, flooring, tool handles, boxes, butcher's blocks and crates. It has also been made into pulp for paper. Today it seems to be especially chosen for veneering and pulp.