

ArborTags



Usually larger than a maple leaf the London Planetree leaf has 3 or 5 shallow lobes scattered teeth. The base of the leaf stem covers the bud for next season's growth. In autumn the leaves turn a dull, unexciting brown.

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Platanus x acerifolia

London Planetree

Sycamore

Platanus x acerifolia

London Planetree

Sycamore



In autumn and winter you can see the 1 inch buttonballs hanging from the tips of the upper branches. Planetrees which sometimes have two balls on the same stem can be distinguished from true Sycamores which always have a single ball.

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The most characteristic feature of the Planetree is the peeling and flaking outer bark which reveals the inner tan or yellow younger bark. A true Sycamore will more often have a bone white inner bark.

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Sycamore

The Sycamore is thought to be the first of the hardwoods to grow on Earth, surviving the ice ages. The London Planetree is a cross between the American Sycamore and the Oriental Planetree (*Platanus orientalis*). This variety has proven itself a survivor in smoggy urban areas.

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