

Platanus racemosa—California Sycamore/Plane Tree

The California Sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*) is a rugged native of the California foothills and Coast Ranges. It is fast-growing, up to 75-80 feet, often with spreading or leaning, multiple trunks. Major branches are often twisted at odd angles and spread to 40 or 50 feet. Sycamores are best identified by brown, gray and white patchwork bark, large, deeply lobed, fan-shaped leaves, and dangling, spherical “cottonball” seed clusters. The flowers are not showy. The species is deciduous and the leaves turn brown to yellow brown producing some fall color.

Sycamores tolerate full sun, heat and wind. They also encourage wildlife and attract nesting birds, hummingbirds and butterflies. Sycamores are best used in parks or in large and “native” gardens.

See this species at Harrison St. and Victoria Avenue, as the centerpiece of the Hal Snyder Garden.

