Yellowwood Tree, American

Cladrastis lutea

Height: 35 feet

Spread: 20 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4b

Other Names: Yellowwood, C. kentukea, C. tinctoria

Description:

A beautiful but somewhat fussy small tree with very show cascading panicles of white flowers in spring, good habit of growth all year round; makes an ideal accent or shade tree for smaller properties; tends to flower profusely every second year

Ornamental Features

Yellowwood Tree, American is blanketed in stunning panicles of fragrant white pea-like flowers hanging below the branches from mid to late spring. It has light green deciduous foliage which emerges chartreuse in spring. The compound leaves turn yellow in fall. The smooth silver bark adds an interesting dimension to the landscape.

Landscape Attributes

Yellowwood Tree, American is an open deciduous tree with a more or less rounded form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance tree, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It is a good choice for attracting bees to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.



Yellowwood Tree, American in fall
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Yellowwood Tree, American flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Yellowwood Tree, American is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Shade

Planting & Growing

Yellowwood Tree, American will grow to be about 35 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 20 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 5 feet from the ground, and should not be planted underneath power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 70 years or more.

This tree does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. This plant should be periodically fertilized throughout the active growing season with a specially-formulated acidic fertilizer. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. This species is native to parts of North America.



Yellowwood Tree, American in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Clean up Rating (1-5) 1=least effort 5=most effort

Clean Up Rate (3): Yellowwood produce clusters of white flowers, followed by a few flat bean pods 2 to 3 inches long. Clean up; all debris can be blown or raked onto the lawn and mowed or bagged. Yellowwood trees some need wind protection.