

HIPPOCASTANACEAE – HORSECHESTNUT (BUCKEYE) FAMILY

Plant: shrubs and trees

Stem:

Root:

Leaves: deciduous in N.A.; opposite, palmately compound with 3-11 but commonly 5-7 leaflets; mostly with saw-teeth, long stalks; no stipules

Flowers: perfect and imperfect (usually monoecious), irregular (zygomorphic); large, showy, somewhat bell-shaped; sepals 4-5 and lobed; 4-5 petals, unequal, clawed, and of various colors; 5-8 long stamens; ovary superior, 3 carpels, 1 style, 1 stigma

Fruit: large spiny capsule, splits into 3 parts, 1-3 seeds

Other: some ornamentals (particularly horse chestnut); Dicotyledons Group

Genera: 2+ genera; locally *Aesculus* (buckeye)

HIPPOCASTANACEAE – HORSECHESTNUT (BUCKEYE) FAMILY

Ohio Buckeye; *Aesculus glabra* Willd. var. *glabra*

Horse Chestnut; *Aesculus hippocastanum* L. (Introduced)

Red Buckeye; *Aesculus pavia* L.

Ohio Buckeye

Aesculus glabra Willd. var. *glabra*
Hippocastanaceae (Horse-Chestnut
Family)

Maumee River Metroparks, Lucas County, Ohio
Notes: tree; 4-petaled flower, greenish-yellow, in
terminal clusters; leaves opposite, mostly 5
palmate leaflets, widest in middle, finely toothed,
green above and paler below; bark brown to gray,
platy with age; twigs grayish, hairy or not; buds
large, keeled; fruit capsule with blunt knobs ;
spring

[V Max Brown, 2004]



Horse Chestnut

Aesculus hippocastanum L.

(Introduced)

Hippocastanaceae (Horse-Chestnut Family)

University of Toledo Campus, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: tree; 4-petaled flower, white (pinkish), very showy, often with some red, stamens very long; leaves palmate with mostly 7 leaflets, broadest above the middle, abrupt short acute tip; bark gray, sometimes scaly; buds large, somewhat sticky or gluey; fruit capsule very spiny, green, with 1-2 seeds; spring

[V Max Brown, 2004]



Red Buckeye

Aesculus pavia L.

Hippocastanaceae (Horse-Chestnut Family)

Heber Springs, Cleburne County, Arkansas

Notes: shrub to small tree; 4-petaled flower, 2 lateral and 2 upright, red, showy; leaves opposite, palmate with mostly 5 (7) leaflets, broadest above the middle, toothed, upper dark green, lower paler; bark gray, mostly smooth; buds large, not sticky, with overlapping scales; fruit capsule or pod, smooth, with 1-2 seeds; spring

[V Max Brown, 2010]

