



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

*Aesculus parviflora*¹

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Introduction

Native from Alabama and South Carolina into Florida, Bottlebrush Buckeye forms a rounded mass of dark green, palmately-compound foliage in mid-spring (Fig. 1). The shrub eventually reaches about 8-feet-tall but grows to 12-feet-wide. It can be found in its native, moist, shaded habitat flowering in early summer. The delicate, showy, white flowers are held well above the foliage in terminal panicles up to 12 inches long. Bottlebrush Buckeye has been successfully used as far north as Chicago (hardiness zone 5).

General Information

Scientific name: *Aesculus parviflora*

Pronunciation: ESS-kew-lus par-vif-FLOR-uh

Common name(s): Bottlebrush Buckeye

Family: *Hippocastanaceae*

Plant type: shrub

USDA hardiness zones: 5 through 9A (Fig. 2)

Planting month for zone 7: year round

Planting month for zone 8: year round

Planting month for zone 9: year round

Origin: native to Florida

Uses: specimen; screen; foundation; border

Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant

Description

Height: 5 to 10 feet

Spread: 10 to 15 feet



Figure 1. Bottlebrush Buckeye.

Plant habit: round

Plant density: moderate

Growth rate: slow

Texture: coarse

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: opposite/subopposite

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Leaf type: palmately compound
Leaf margin: crenate
Leaf shape: oblong; obovate
Leaf venation: pinnate
Leaf type and persistence: deciduous
Leaf blade length: 4 to 8 inches
Leaf color: green
Fall color: yellow
Fall characteristic: showy

Flower

Flower color: white
Flower characteristic: spring flowering

Fruit

Fruit shape: elongated
Fruit length: 1 to 3 inches
Fruit cover: dry or hard
Fruit color: brown
Fruit characteristic: showy

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: typically multi-trunked or clumping stems; not particularly showy
Current year stem/twig color: gray/silver
Current year stem/twig thickness: thick

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in part shade/part sun; plant grows in the shade
Soil tolerances: extended flooding; acidic; sand; loam; clay;
Drought tolerance: moderate
Soil salt tolerances: poor
Plant spacing: 36 to 60 inches

Other

Roots: sprouts from roots or lower trunk
Winter interest: no special winter interest
Outstanding plant: plant has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more
Invasive potential: not known to be invasive
Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests

Use and Management

Allow plenty of room for this spreading shrub since it looks best without pruning. Pruning ruins the natural uniform shape. Locate it in the partial or full shade for a splash of color in early summer. Fall color is yellow, occasionally developing into a short-lived showy display.

Pests and Diseases

Few problems are reported on this nice, native plant.

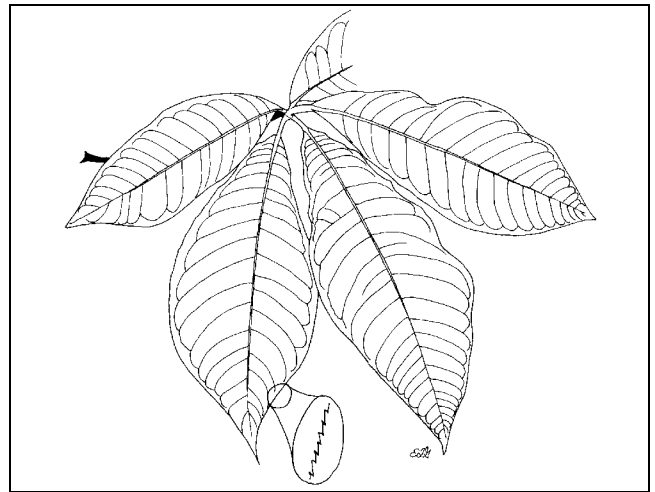


Figure 3. Foliage of Bottlebrush Buckeye