



## *Stewartia koreana* Korean Stewartia<sup>1</sup>

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### INTRODUCTION

Capable of reaching 50 feet in height, Korean Stewartia is most often seen at 20 to 30 feet, its short, interwoven branchlets forming a dense, pyramidal canopy which casts deep shade below this deciduous tree (Fig. 1). The one to four-inch-long by one to three-inch-wide dark green leaves often turn to lovely shades of orange, red, or purple in the fall but this is not a reliable occurrence. Over a several week period in June to July, Korean Stewartia is decorated with lovely, pure white, yellow-centered blossoms, three-inches-across and flattened, appearing much like a single camellia flower. Each flower is open for about 24 hours and they attract bees. Most other trees have finished flowering by the time these flowers emerge. The bark of Korean Stewartia is probably the most outstanding characteristic, with orange/brown patches showing through the flaking, grey bark.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Scientific name:** *Stewartia koreana*

**Pronunciation:** stoo-AR-tee-uh kor-ee-AY-nuh

**Common name(s):** Korean Stewartia

**Family:** *Theaceae*

**USDA hardiness zones:** 5B through 7 (Fig. 2)

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Uses:** container or above-ground planter; espalier; large parking lot islands (> 200 square feet in size); wide tree lawns (>6 feet wide); medium-sized parking lot islands (100-200 square feet in size); medium-sized tree lawns (4-6 feet wide); recommended for buffer strips around parking lots or for median strip plantings in the highway; near a deck or patio; narrow tree

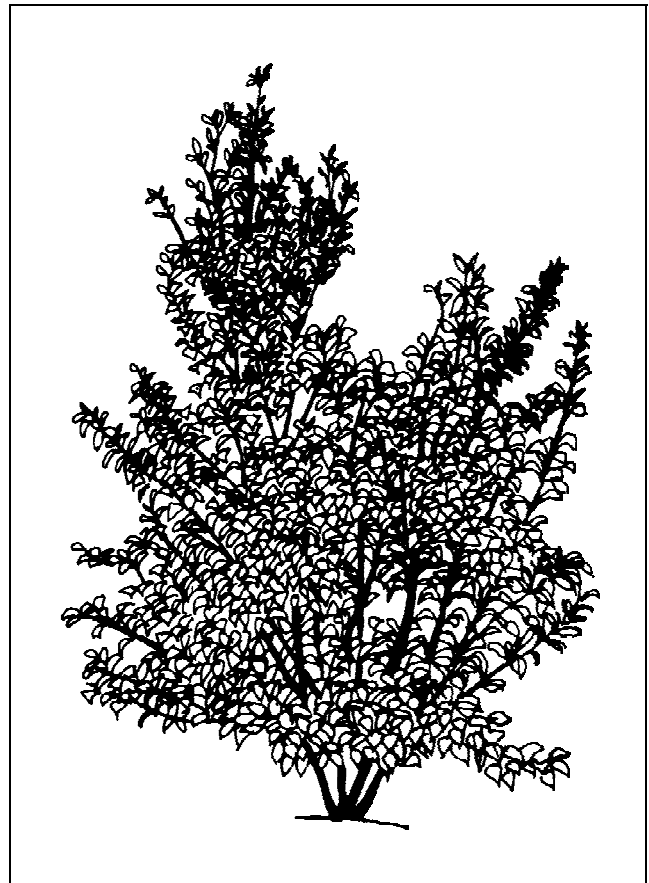


Figure 1. Young Korean Stewartia.

lawns (3-4 feet wide); specimen; sidewalk cutout (tree pit); residential street tree; no proven urban tolerance

**Availability:** grown in small quantities by a small number of nurseries

1. This document is adapted from Fact Sheet ST-601, a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: October 1994.
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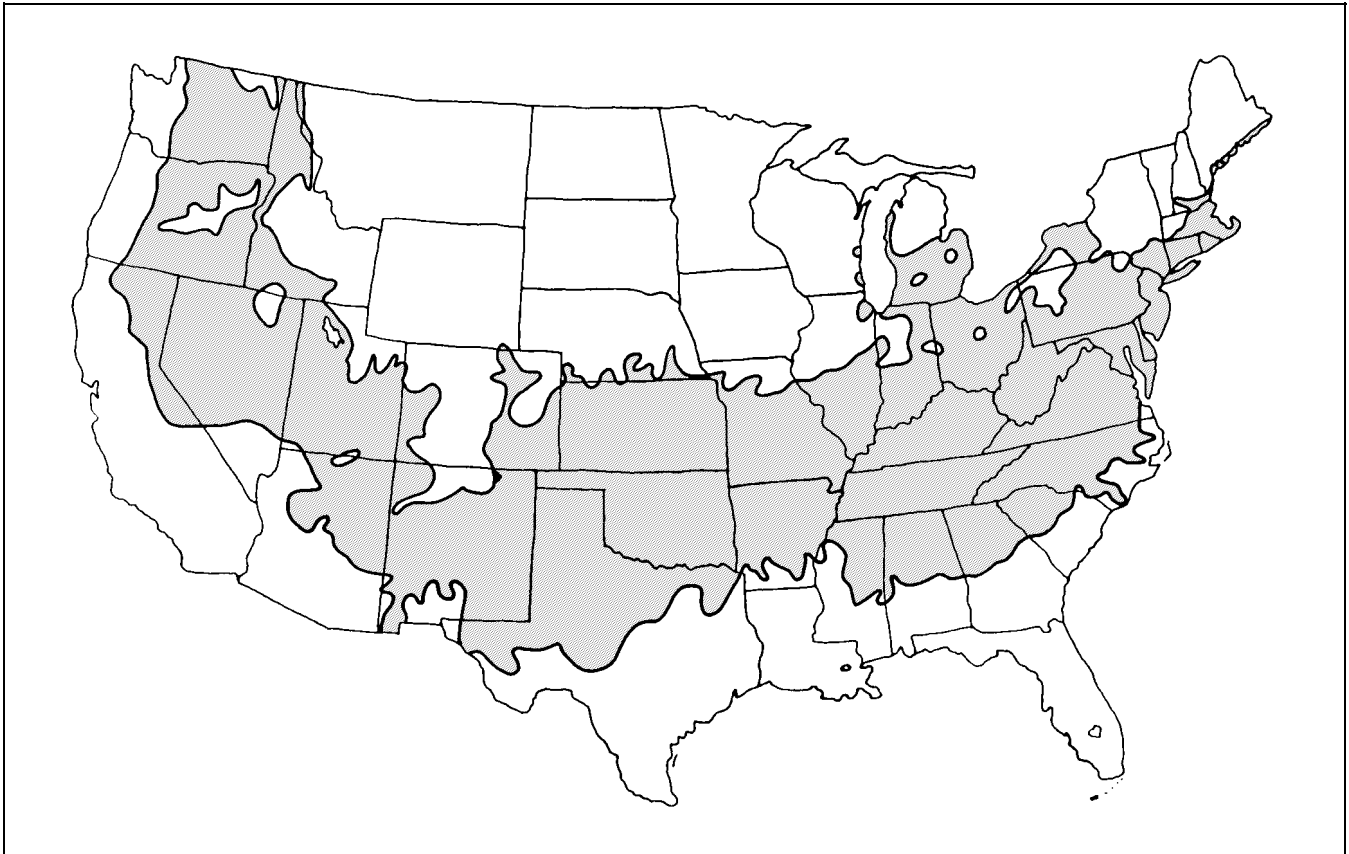


Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

## DESCRIPTION

**Height:** 20 to 30 feet

**Spread:** 15 to 25 feet

**Crown uniformity:** symmetrical canopy with a regular (or smooth) outline, and individuals have more or less identical crown forms

**Crown shape:** pyramidal; upright

**Crown density:** dense

**Growth rate:** slow

**Texture:** medium

## Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** alternate (Fig. 3)

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** serrate

**Leaf shape:** elliptic (oval)

**Leaf venation:** banchidodrome; pinnate

**Leaf type and persistence:** deciduous

**Leaf blade length:** 2 to 4 inches; less than 2 inches

**Leaf color:** green

**Fall color:** orange; purple; red

**Fall characteristic:** showy

## Flower

**Flower color:** white

**Flower characteristics:** showy; summer flowering

## Fruit

**Fruit shape:** oval; round

**Fruit length:** 1 to 3 inches

**Fruit covering:** dry or hard

**Fruit color:** red

**Fruit characteristics:** attracts birds; inconspicuous and not showy; no significant litter problem

## Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/bark/branches:** bark is thin and easily damaged from mechanical impact; routinely grown with, or trainable to be grown with, multiple trunks; grow mostly upright and will not droop; tree wants to grow with several trunks but can be trained to grow with a single trunk; very showy trunk; no thorns

**Pruning requirement:** needs little pruning to develop a strong structure

**Breakage:** resistant

**Current year twig color:** green; gray

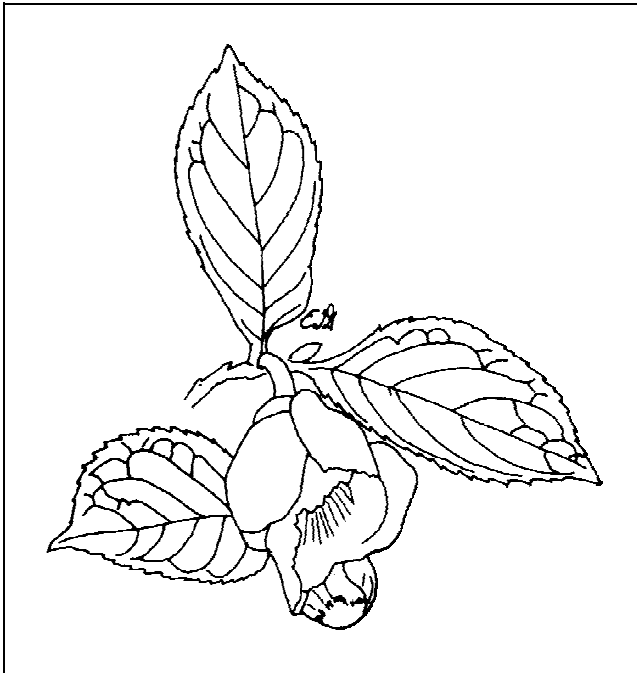


Figure 3. Foliage of Korean Stewartia.

**Current year twig thickness:** medium; thin

### Culture

**Light requirement:** tree grows in part shade/part sun;  
tree grows in full sun

**Soil tolerances:** clay; loam; sand; acidic;  
well-drained

**Drought tolerance:** moderate

### Other

**Roots:** surface roots are usually not a problem

**Winter interest:** no special winter interest

**Outstanding tree:** tree has outstanding ornamental  
features and could be planted more

**Invasive potential:** little, if any, potential at this time

**Pest resistance:** no pests are normally seen on the  
tree

## USE AND MANAGEMENT

This tree can be used in much the same way as Japanese Stewartia. It is unsurpassed as a specimen, but can also be included in a shrub border, planted near a patio or deck to show off the wonderful bark, or used as a multi-trunked street tree planted on 20-foot centers. Set it off as a specimen by placing it in a bed of low, evergreen ground cover.

Korean Stewartia should be grown in full sun but reportedly looks best where it can receive some shade

during the hottest part of the day. However, there are fine-looking specimens growing in poor clay soil in USDA hardiness zone 7b with no irrigation which are located in full-day sun. The soil should preferably be moist, acid, and supplemented with organic matter. Pruning is seldom required as growth rate is slow and branches normally keep in bounds, staying close to the tight canopy.

Propagation is by seed (with difficulty) or by cuttings.

### Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases of major concern.