

Platanus racemosa Nuttall var. *racemosa*

[*Platanus californica* Bentham]

Western or California Sycamore

Description: Broad-leaved, winter-deciduous, wind-pollinated tree to 10-35 m high. The bark is irregularly-colored scale-like peeling, and the twigs are densely hairy. The large leaves are simple alternate, winter-deciduous, palmately-lobed dense-hairy (glabrous with age). The inflorescence is spheric and many-flowered, which are individually non-descript. Blooms in February-April.

Habitat: riverbanks, seepage areas, lake shores, canyons, ditches; <2,000 m.

Distribution: Native to California and Baja California, Mexico. Riparian tree.

Landscape Position: All aspects, full sun or partial shade. Hardy to USDA Zone 7.

Landscape Attributes: Provides a light green course texture, and is winter-deciduous. This is a wetland tree, requiring irrigation or planting where it can reach a shallow groundwater table. Tolerates full sun and shade. Generally with a single trunk. Bark is mottled white and tans, resembling a jigsaw puzzle. Fall foliage color adds interest and contrast to landscape. Excellent tree for that wet lawn area, if a traditional lawn must be part of the landscape. Give this tree lots of room. Tolerant of heat and wind.

