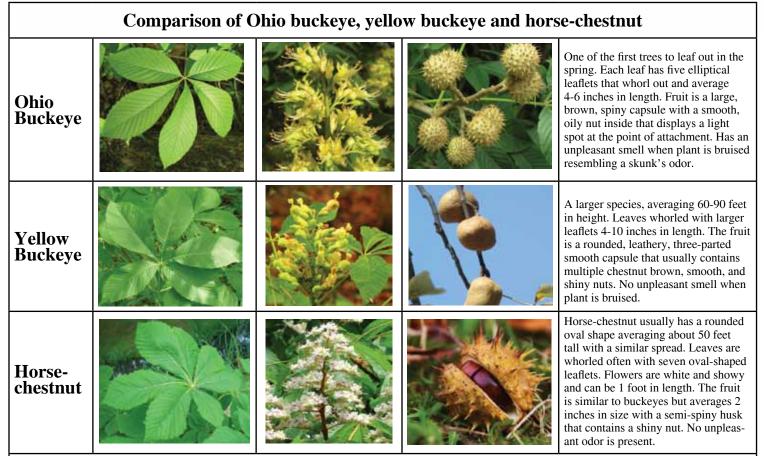
Kentucky Champion Tree Progra The Real Ohio Buckeye – from a Kentucky Perspective

What is a buckeye? If you asked, the responses would probably depend on where the responder lives and what they're interested in. The buckeye to which I'm referring is not a mascot from that university about 200 miles north of Lexington, nor am I referring to natives from the state of Ohio. I am referring to an iconic tree that happens to be the state tree of Ohio-you guessed it-the Ohio buckeye.

This tree is not only native to Ohio and Kentucky, but is frequently found in moist habitats in the southeastern and central United States. It thrives in rich, moist soils but has the ability to grow in a variety of sites including alkaline soils and in full sun to partial shade. The Ohio buckeye is considered a medium-sized tree with a round canopy and usually matures with an equal height and spread of 20-40 feet. Kentucky's champion Ohio buckeye also follows this pattern with a height of 73 feet and a spread of 67 feet, but the circumference measures a whopping 172 inches. Not only is this magnificent specimen Kentucky's state champion, it is also a national co-champion.



Photo courtesy: Kentucky Division of Forestry



All photos courtesy: http://www.ipfw.edu except yellow buckeye fruit which is courtesy Wendy VanDyk Evans, Bugwood.org

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