

Gymnocladus dioica

Kentucky coffeetree

Deciduous. Give it time and you will be rewarded. Awkward and sparse when young, it soon fills in with wonderfully sturdy, upright arching branches and develops an oval crown. Bark is gray and quite rough, developing long scaly plates running up the trunk; the plates have characteristic upturned, curled edges. Medium texture in summer, but coarse and rugged in winter, accentuated by its bark. Moderately slow-growing to 60' in height and 35' in width.

Foliage: Lovely, lush and tropical in appearance. Bipinnately compound, alternate leaves reach 3' in length. The leaflets are ovate, about 2" long, green with a bluish tint. The rachis (leaf stalk) is so strong on these huge leaves that it is often mistaken for a branch on young trees, surprising many when it falls off in autumn. Disadvantage: these are a little messy on the lawn. Fall color can be a good yellow. **Flowers/seeds/fruits/cones:** Dioecious or polygamo-dioecious, flowering late May to June, flowers small, white, fragrant, about 3/4", in panicles. Pretty up close, but usually not abundant enough to be very ornamental from a distance. Large light green seed pods follow, 5 to 10" long and 1 1/2" wide, turning brownish black in autumn and eventually falling like old banana peels to the ground. **Native range:** New York to southern Minnesota and south to Tennessee to Oklahoma. **Adaptability:** Tough and adaptable, tolerating drought but also wet soils, liking limestone and happy in moderately acid to high pH soils. Zones 4 to 8. **Landscape use:** Like the ugly duckling that turns into the beautiful swan, this one-armed nursery broomstick slowly develops an elegant



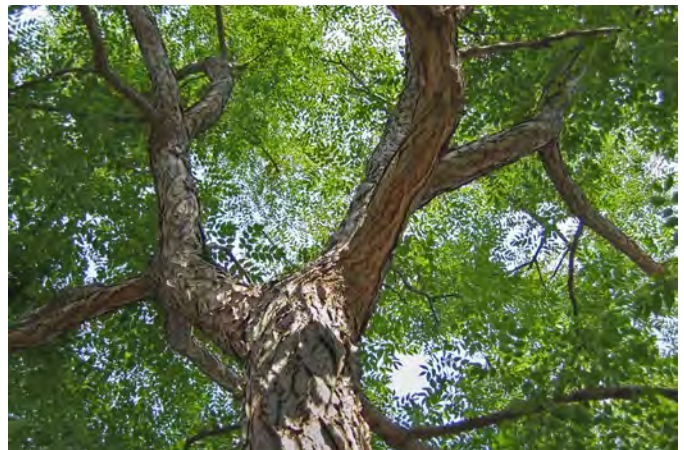
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ESPRESSO

for parks, but messy over hardscape. The following seedless male cultivars are preferred. Note that we have seen trees that are male when young, but produce fruit with age, a trick that polygamo-dioecious trees can play on you.

DECAF 'McKBranded'. Branches better than seedling trees at a young age, producing a fuller canopy, with a finer-textured appearance. Carmel-colored new tip growth. 50' tall, 40' wide.

ESPRESSO 'Espresso-JFS'. The most popular cultivar, faster growing and providing a better branched canopy at an earlier age than the others. Particularly lush foliage. It grows upright to an oval form at a young age, then stretches into a broad vase shape. Excellent as a residential shade tree or a street tree that provides canopy cover, 55' tall and 40' wide. A favorite.

PRAIRIE TITAN 'J. C. McDaniel'. An upright-spreading form, it becomes broadly oval and develops a sturdy trunk with excellent architecture and a broad rounded crown, the widest of the cultivars at 50' by 50'.

SKINNY LATTE 'Morton'. We are excited about this remarkably narrow cultivar, which originated at the Morton Arboretum in Illinois. Stiffly upright with main structural branches that ascend almost vertically, nearly columnar in form, just a bit wider on top than at the base. Valuable for narrow streets. To 50' tall, only 15 to 20' wide.

'Stately Manor'. Upright-growing with limbs ascending to form an oval canopy. It becomes a full-sized tree, but very slowly, the slowest of the listed cultivars, to 50' by 35'. The original tree is beautiful, at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.

TRUE NORTH 'UMNSynergy' Upright habit with good branch architecture, its oval form is narrower than the species and well shaped for street use, 55' by 35'. Dark green foliage, selected in Minnesota with proven zone 4 hardiness.



ESPRESSO

branch structure, becoming better each year to become one of the finest of the noble trees. A magnificent shade tree for large residences, parks, and campus use. To sit beneath one is a religious experience to a tree lover: the structure feels massive like an ancient cathedral, yet its foliage is as elegant as the stained-glass windows. We love this tree. **Street tree use:** Excellent street tree, with a growth habit that provides good clearance, and seedless cultivars that also give reliable shape. **In the trade:** Widely sold as seed-grown, but be aware that most of these will probably bear seed pods: fine



PRAIRIE TITAN



SKINNY LATTE



'Stately Manor'



TRUE NORTH