

Insert as an Additional Taxon For *Sophora secundiflora*:

Cladrastis kentukea (G.L.M. Dumont de Courset) Rudd

Kentucky Yellowwood

(*Cladrastis albiflora*, *Cladrastis fragrans*, *Cladrastis kentuckensis*, *Cladrastis lutea*, *Cladrastis tinctoria*, *Sophora kentukea*, *Virgilia kentuckensis*, *Virgilia lutea*)

C *Cladrastis kentukea*, also known as American Yellowwood or Yellowwood, is a small to medium size tree native to the Eastern U.S.; trees develop a rounded to spreading crown 30Nto 50Ntall composed of much crisscrossing branches on a short stout trunk; bark is smooth and a handsome light gray color; as implied by the common names the heartwood has a yellowish cast, at least when first cut.

C Kentucky Yellowwood is most valued for its showy terminal panicles of small 10to 1¼0long fragrant white flowers in late spring to early summer; the alternate 80to 120long odd pinnately compound leaves are a fresh bright green in summer and often develop good yellow fall coloration; trees offer both good foliage and flower effects, but flowering may not occur for many years when propagated from seeds; buds are encased entirely in the base of the leaf, resulting in unique circular leaf scars around the buds on the deciduous stems.

C Trees are frequently found native on alkaline soils, thus *C. kentukea* can handle a wide range of soil pH; limited heat and drought tolerance hinder use in southern and western portions of our region; although tolerant of cold to USDA zone 4(3), plants tend to suffer in the heat of zones 7b and 8; trees will flower best in full sun in cooler climates, but may benefit from some afternoon shade in warmer climates; despite a tolerance for poor soil fertility, plants lack drought tolerant; transplant establishment is easiest from containers.

C Planting should be reserved for cooler moister portions of our region, essentially north and east of the Dallas / Fort Worth Metroplex; trees can be used in park and home lawn settings, but are rather slow in growth; in colder climates they can also be used as street trees with proper pruning; in fact, preventative pruning to remove crossing limbs and to create a good scaffold branch structure is recommended to prevent wind and ice damage; the genus name refers to the brittle twigs and is derived from the Greek words for branch (klados) and fragile (thraustos) and the specific epithet honors the state of Kentucky; this is a nice tree, but it is best reserved for use in cooler climates.