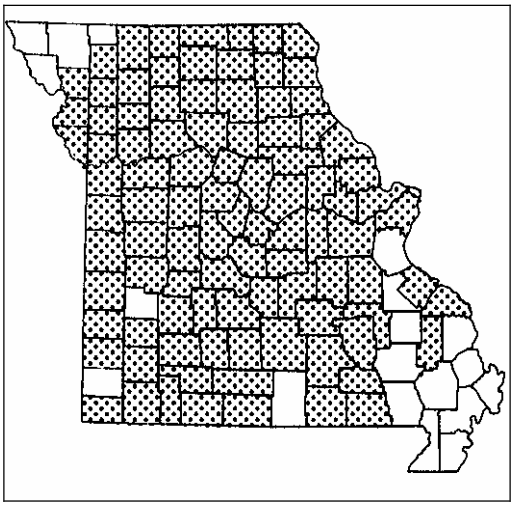
Buckeye

Aesculus spp.

Ohio (*A. glabra* Willd.) and yellow (*A. octanora* Marsh.) are the major species of buckeye. Ohio is most common and is sometimes called “fetid” or “stinking” buckeye because of the nauseating odor of the bruised bark. Yellow buckeye may also be called sweet buckeye and has a much larger fruit than Ohio buckeye. These species are combined in the trade and can be utilized for the same purposes as aspen, basswood and yellow poplar. Buckeye is found on moist, limestone soils, frequently in river drainages. It is a desirable ornamental.

The wood is nearly white in color. The white sapwood blends gradually into a creamy white heartwood. The bark is gray, furrowed and broken into scaly plates. It is very soft in texture, close-grained, not strong, but generally straight-grained, and low in shock resistance. It is rated low on machineability such as shaping, mortising, steam bending, boring and turning. The grain is quite plain and is seldom used in a natural finish. However, it takes paint and enamel very well. The wood is diffuse porous and the growth rings are not distinct.

Buckeye in lumber form has been used principally for furniture, boxes and crates, food containers, woodenware, novelties and planing mill products. It is also used for toys, carvings and picture frames. It is not generally commercially available in Missouri, but is a desirable wood for home workshop use within its limits.



Szopa