

GINKGO

Ginkgo biloba L.
=*Salisburia adiantifolia* Sm.

GINKGOACEÆ
From E China.

Golden Fossil-Tree
Maidenhair Tree

Chinese: Yin Hsing, Pai Kuo or Ya Chiao
Japanese: Ichō イチヨウ

The odd leaf of this tree is unparalleled and in outline reminded Englishmen of their beloved fern called the Maidenhair. Less poetically, in this country kids have christened it Stink-bomb Tree because its ripe fruits (late September–October) are so disgustingly fetid. Plum-like orange-colored fruit is borne only by mature female trees in the presence of males; the large seeds are edible. In China certain Ginkgo cultivars selected for superior seed production are grown in orchards. In the U.S. selected Ginkgo cultivars are also grown, but only in the male sex and solely for ornament. The tree can surpass 200' × 52½' and live more than 1,000 years. Grown in this country since 1784, the largest are now over 135' tall and up to 22½' around. It thrives in many environments, is troublefree and attractive. The leaves turn pure yellow consistently in November.

Many of us have visited the Ginkgo petrified forest in central Washington, seeing rock-hard evidence that Ginkgos once grew over a great territory. Called Golden Fossil Tree, it is earth's most primitive tree, having remained essentially unchanged for over 200 million years! Aside from its ornamental and nut-tree roles, various medical discoveries have been made with it. One of the most promising, an extract from the leaves, is used for treating senility.

In Seattle, common. Virtually all larger specimens are on private property. None here can compare in size with far older and larger examples to the south in Puyallup, Tacoma, and Portland (up to 86' × 12'0" or more).

- 13th Ave & E Columbia St: a ♂ 63' × 8'3¼" on the NW corner
- 800 block S Sullivan St: in back yard by alley a 70' tall ♂
- Volunteer Park: S side, W of 14th Ave, has 2 ♀; the taller 69' × 3'2¾"
- 11330 Sand Point Way NE has a ♀ "street-tree" 61½' tall
- 1912 38th Ave E: a ♂ 58½' tall
- Roosevelt High School: a ♂ 56' × 5'6" at the SE corner
- Locks bed #122 (slender; bent), 202 (slender; in yellowwood's shade), 302 (56' tall)
- 2624 West Viewmont Way W: 55' tall
- 1756 S Spokane St (west of Beacon Ave S): a ♀ street-tree, 53' × 6'1½"
- 603 Malden Ave E: a ♀ 51' tall
- 6708 Fremont Ave N: a 2-trunked ♂ 50' tall
- 3330 Lakewood Ave S: a ♀ 50' tall is SE of the house
- E Miller St, east of Broadway E: a ♂ street-tree, S side, 49½' × 5'2½"
- a broad ♀ in alley W of 18th Ave E between E McGraw & E Lynn is 44½' × 5'2"
- 1032 S Cloverdale St: a stout, wide ♂ 37½' tall
- 5813 McKinley Pl N (north of Kenwood Pl N): 2 street-trees (one of each sex), the ♀ 46½' × 4'8¾", the ♂ 42½' × 3'5¼" (below forking)
- 1500 Lakeside Ave S: ♂ and ♀ street-trees, the southernmost ♀