

Key to Garden Aesculus Species (Hatch 1999)

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More than 100 botanical subspecies, varieties, forms, and cultivars are described in my **CULTIVARS OF WOODY PLANTS Aesculus** file and this is recommended for further identification of such taxa. This key is an overview of the major species and some hybrid taxa

- 1. Petals yellow.....2
 - 1. Petals white or white with colored markings.....10
 - 1. Petals pink to red.....30
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PETALS YELLOW

- 2. Fruit smooth & Buds non-resinous & Stamens not projecting.....3
 - 2. Fruit prickled & Buds resinous & Stamens projecting.....4
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- 3. Leaves glabrous to subglabrous.....*Aesculus flava* f. *flava*
 - 3. Leaves slightly pubescent.....*Aesculus flava* f. *vestita*
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- 4. Tree with bark fissured & brown to gray.....5
 - 4. Tree with bark smooth & whitish.....*Aesculus glabra* var. *leucodermis*
 - 4. Shrub of dwarf spreading form.....*Aesculus arguta*
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- 5. Leaflets 5-7 & acute & margins evenly serrate.....7
 - 5. Leaflets 6-7 & acuminate & margins doubly-serrate.....*Aesculus glabra* var. *sargentii*, possibly *A. arguta* if quite low, shrubby
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- 7. Leaves glabrous to subglabrous.....8
 - 7. Leaves pubescent, even at maturity.....*Aesculus glabra* var. *glabra* f. *pallida*
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- 8. Fruit ovoid to subglobose.....*Aesculus glabra* var. *glabra* f. *glabra*
 - 8. Fruit distinctly globose.....*Aesculus glabra* var. *monticola*
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PETALS WHITE OR WHITE MARKED RED TO YELLOW

10. Plant a spreading shrub wider than tall, rarely over 10 feet tall.....*Aesculus parviflora*
10. Plant a single-trunked tree, 10-40 feet tall.....12
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12. Fruit distinctly pricked over surface.....*Aesculus hippocastanum*
12. Fruit smooth on surface.....14
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14. Inflorescence a pyramidal panicle.....15
14. Inflorescence a cylindrical panicle.....20
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15. Leaves to 40-55cm long & Fruit pear-shaped.....*Aesculus turbinata*
15. Leaves 20-35cm long & Fruit spherical.....17
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17. Petiolules (leaflet stalks) 10-15mm long.....*Aesculus wilsonii*
17. Petiolules (leaflet stalks) 4-10mm long.....*Aesculus chinensis*
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20. 5 Leaflets of 5-10cm long & intensely fragrant (CA native).....*Aesculus californica*
20. 6-7 Leaflets of 20-30cm long & mostly unscented.....*Aesculus indica* and 'Sydney Pearce'
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PETALS PINK TO RED

30. Fruit with prickled surface.....31
30. Fruit with smooth surface.....32
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31. Petals rich red to scarlet, very intensely pigmented.....*Aesculus x carnea* (*A. hippocastanum* x *A. pavia*) and numerous cultivars such as 'Briotii'
31. Petals medium to light pink.....*Aesculus x plantierensis* (*A. x carnea* x *A. hippocastanum*)
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32. Habit shrubby.....33
32. Habit tree-like.....36
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33. Leaves glabrous or slightly hairy on veins below.....*Aesculus pavia* and clones of it, also consider *A. discolor*

33. Leaves greyish or rusty tomentose below on most of surface.....*Aesculus splendens*

36. Winter buds resinous & Stamens projecting (CA native).....*Aesculus californica* (pink-flowered variants)

36. Winter buds non-resinous & Stamens not projecting (Eastern US).....*Aesculus x hybrida* (*A. flava* x *A. pavia*), also pink-flowered *Aesculus flava* f. *virginica*

