

## Gymnocladus dioicus

Zone: 4-8

Height: 60'

Width: 45'

Crown: Oval, open  
Growth Rate: Medium  
Soil: Very adaptable  
Roots: Not a problem



## Kentucky Coffee Tree



Female

Male

Flowers

While Coffee Tree is an impressive mature tree, nurserymen should note that as with all members of the Pea family, this is not an easy tree to grow. It will resist any attempt to straighten the leader. It may be 2" caliper and 16 feet tall with only two lateral branches. It branches at irregular intervals and may look a mess compared to an Acer or a Tilia. So you can either spend money and time trying to tame it, or let it do its thing. Your customer may gripe about it but you'll have to educate him. Given time, this tree will win the hearts and minds of landscapers. And why? There seems to be no pests or disease for this species.

Its growth rate is medium once established. You'll have to admit that even though it is a crazy grower, the structure of the mature tree is sound.

Seed pods are problematical, occasionally bonking someone on the head. Male cultivars exist but propagation problems kept these trees off the market. Our staff is working on producing a male selection. We think it will be ready in 2012.