

Ginkgo Biloba

Ginkgo

Family: Ginkgoaceae



*"This leaf from a tree in the East,
Has been given to my garden
It reveals a certain secret
Which pleases me and thoughtful people."*
- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (translated from German)

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Size: 65-115 ft.

Form: Pyramidal shape when young, but as they age, they develop a more irregular, wide-spreading canopy

Leaves: Fan-shaped and turn bright yellow in fall; all leaves stay on the tree until they all fall at the same time

Fruit: Foul smelling fleshy seeds (female trees)

Native: No

HABITAT

Ginkgo biloba is native to China, but it is commonly cultivated worldwide. Ginkgo trees thrive in a variety of soil types and are adaptable to different environmental conditions. They are often planted as ornamental trees in urban areas.

HISTORY & STORY

The Ginkgo Tree near Yardley Hall was donated to the Chatham Hall community in 1929.

INTERESTING FACTS

Ginkgo trees are often referred to as a "living fossil" as it is the only living species in its division and has remained virtually unchanged for millions of years. Ginkgo trees are hardy and can withstand urban pollution and various environmental stressors. Ginkgo biloba extracts are used in traditional medicine and dietary supplements, believed to have potential cognitive benefits. The Ginkgo tree on campus is actually leaning. During its growing stages, it was surrounded by other trees, so it had to lean and curve to reach sunlight.

