

Osage Orange (*Maclura pomifera*)

Origin: Introduced from south-central US.

Status in Park: Rare, a few at lower elevations.

Characteristics: To 50 feet in height, 2 feet in diameter; crown dome-shaped, with several stout, spreading branches; twigs in zig-zag patterns, with short, sharp thorns; bark light gray-brown, separating into shaggy strips; flowers yellow-green and tiny, in clusters; fruits are round, greenish yellow and large (up to 6 inches) “hedge apples”, contain many seeds.

Leaves: Alternate, simple; blades up to 6 inches long; smooth edges; green and smooth on both surfaces.



Location of tagged tree:



Notes: Limited commercial value in Illinois; fence posts, railroad ties, tool handles, bows, firewood; often planted as windbreaks.