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Taylor Sapudar LTE #621

**Tree of the Month- August 2021**  
**American Yellowwood**

**Common Name:** American Yellowwood

**Botanical Name:** *Cladrastis kentukea*

**Native Range:** South, Midwest, Northeast

**Height:** 30'-50'

**Spread:** 40'-50'

**Growth Rate:** 9'-12' over an 8-10 year period. Will grow faster with adequate water and fertilizer.

**Sun:** Full Sun to part shade

**Leaf Description:** Alternate, odd-pinnately compound leaflets with the entire leaf 8-12 inches long. The stem is slender, smooth and bright reddish brown

**Fall Color:** The leaf opens as bright yellow/green changing to bright green in the height of summer. Fall color ranges from yellow to golden yellow.

**Flower Timing:** Late May to early June

**Flower Description:** White fragrant flowers are 8 to 14 inches long, bees are attracted to the nectar. Tends to produce the greatest number of flowers in alternate years

**Fruit:** The fruit is a flat legume containing hard coated seeds.

**Bark Description:** Thin and gray to light brown retaining color as the tree ages. The bark is smooth and beech-like in texture and appearance.

**Wildlife Benefit:** Pollinators such as bees are attracted to the flower nectar.

**Tolerates:** Tolerates both high pH and acid soils as well as full sun.

**Possible Insects:** None serious

**Possible Disease:** Very few problems are found in this tree although verticillium wilt has been seen in one arboretum.

**Uses:** Considered an excellent tree for its flowers and foliage. Yellowwood's medium height and spreading patterns are considered assets as a shade tree for smaller landscapes. The tree's foliage, bark and flowering pattern enhance its landscape presence.

**Where to be found on municipal property:** Mature specimen in Marquand Park adjacent to the weeping hemlock, 2 newly planted specimens on Aiken Ave walking towards the Harrison Street Park entrance.

**Additional Facts:** The tree's name is attributed to the yellow color of its freshly cut heartwood.

Dirr, M. A.; Manual of Woody Landscape Plants. 2019

Feathers, S. "A Shade Tree with Benefits" Penn State Ext, 2014

*Patricia Frawley, August 2021*