



ID #: 513

Owner: USFW—Little River National Wildlife Refuge

Circumference: 25 inches

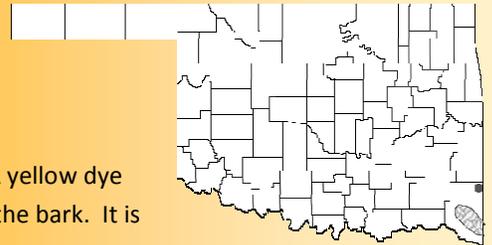
Height: 42 feet

Average Crown Spread: 17 feet

Total Points: 71.3



## SWEETLEAF (*SYMPLOCUS TINCTORIA*)



Also known as horse-sugar, livestock are fond of the sweetleaf's sweetish foliage. A yellow dye formerly was extracted from bark and leaves, and home remedies were prepared from the bark. It is suitable for ornamental planting for the showy fragrant blossoms.

**Large shrub or small tree** 20 feet high, with short trunk 8 inches in diameter, open crown of spreading branches, and foliage with sweetish taste. **Twigs** slender, light green to gray, often hairy when young; pith divided into chambers. **Buds** small, conical, pointed, with about 4 scales; flower buds larger, round.

**Leaves** elliptical or lance-shaped, 3—5 inches long, 1—2 inches wide, short or long pointed at ends, edges not toothed or slightly saw-toothed. Slightly thickened, shiny dark green above, beneath paler and finely hairy, with sweetish taste, becoming evergreen in warm climate.

**Flowers** many, crowded and nearly stalkless in clusters on twigs back of new leaves in early spring. Fragrant, bell-shaped, 3/8 inch across the spreading deeply 5-lobed white or light yellow corolla.

**Fruits** (drupes) several in stalked clusters along twig, elliptical, 3/8 inch long with 5 teeth at tip, green, turning brown, with thin pulp and large 1-seeded stone, maturing in summer and autumn.

**Bark** gray, smooth or slightly fissured, bitter and aromatic.

**Wood** light reddish brown with thick whitish sapwood, fine textured, light weight, soft.