American Yellowwood

Latin name: Cladrastis kentukea	Texture: Medium ¹⁵
Common name: American Yellowwood	Growth rate : Slow growth in the beginning years ¹⁰ with moderate growth after establishment ¹⁵
Flowers: White, showy, fragrant blooms emerge in the springtime, flowers occur in drooping panicles 10-15" in length ¹²	Light: Full sun ¹² to part shade ¹⁰
Fruit or cones: Legume ¹⁰ , flat seed pods that mature in the fall ¹² , 2.5-4" in length ¹² , inconspicuous ¹⁵	Moisture: Medium ¹² , can be drought tolerant after establishment ¹⁰
Height & Width: 30-50' tall, spreads 40-55' ¹²	Soil*: Well-draining soil is ideal, tolerable of alkaline or acidic soils ¹⁵ , ideal pH of 6.8-7.2 ¹⁰
Type: Deciduous ^{12,10} , perennial ¹⁶	Zones : 4 to 8 ^{12,15}
Habit: Upright ¹² vase-like shape ¹⁵	Origin: Eastern United States ¹⁶
Wetland indicator category**: Not found 10/07/23	Ecosystem benefits: Conspicuous flowers ¹⁰ that attract bees ¹⁵ and hummingbirds ¹⁶

(Numbers identify sources listed on page 2-3)

Features: Cladrastis kentukea is a native^{12,6,20} tree that has several desirable ornamental features such as a nice yellow to orange fall color¹⁰, showy white flowers¹² that are great attractors for bees¹⁵ and hummingbirds¹⁶, and a vase-like form¹⁵. This is a good shade tree¹⁰ that is deer-resistant¹⁶.

Siting: This tree should be placed in a location with well-draining soil that receives full sun to part shade. *Cladrastis kentukea* should also be in a location that is protected from strong winds¹².

Care: Plant so root flare is visible at soil surface¹⁴. At planting, water the root ball daily with two gallons of water per inch of trunk diameter for two weeks, every other day for two months, and then weekly until established. Modify water recommendations to reflect site drainage and rainfall. Apply 3" of mulch over the planted area. Do not allow mulch to touch the trunk¹⁴. Refrain from pruning directly after transplanting as well as in the spring and winter¹⁰. Pruning should occur in the summertime to prevent excessive bleeding that would occur if pruned in the spring or winter^{12,15}.

Pests: Plants are relatively pest-resistant if cultural preferences are met^{10,12,15}. However, verticillium wilt could occur^{12,15}.

This plant does not appear on the following invasive plant lists on (10/05/2023):

- _X_ USDA SC Invasive Plant Species Web site at http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/plants/main.shtml
- _X_ SC Exotic Plant Pest Council Web site at http://www.se-eppc.org/southcarolina/



Image:

Image source: https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/cladrastis-kentukea/

Sources:

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- (17) USDA. Plant wetland indicator status. (n/d). Retrieved from http://plants.usda.gov/wetland.html
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*Soil pH is determined using a professional soil test. Contact your Clemson University County Extension service for assistance www.clemson.edu/extension/. Click on "local offices".

**2012 Plant Wetland Indicato	r categories (quantitative derived)	http://plants.usda.gov/wetinfo.html
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Indicator Code	Indicator Status	Comment
OBL	Obligate Wetland	Almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely in uplands
FACW	Facultative Wetland	Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands
FAC	Facultative	Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte
FACU	Facultative Upland	Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands
UPL	Obligate Upland	Rarely is a hydrophyte, almost always in uplands